

THE GATEWAY

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Nobel peace prize winner weighs in on global warming

ROSIE GORUK
News Editor

“global warming” usually leads to a... in the general direction of Alberta, according to Dr Andrew Weaver, professor and Canadian chair in climate modelling and analysis in the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences at the University of Victoria, our province hardly deserves the sole blame. Speaking on campus to a packed Tory Lecture Theatre on Wednesday night, Weaver assured the audience that laying blame on Alberta is not the easy way out.

Alberta's been given a hard time because it's rich in a resource we all use. Rather than reach the line of questioning as to whether or not the problem is us and using the resource, we want to point the finger at Alberta,” he explained. The lecture, titled “Global Warming: the science of the problem and the path to the solution,” focused largely on the topics covered in Weaver's recent book, *Keeping Our Cool: Canada in a Warming World*. This comes on the heels of his sharing in the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore for working to lay foundations on which to accumulate knowledge of climate change.

In a preamble to his main point, Weaver began his discussion by introducing what he sees as the issues facing scientists of today and how to convey issues of importance to a wider audience. In his view, the media is at the heart of the problem.

Most of us don't read the peer-reviewed literature. We're not going to go to journals and read about the latest research in a particular area. We're going to get science knowledge—and it includes media in most areas of science—

by going to the newspaper, the television, and radio,” he noted.

The problem with that, as Weaver sees it, is that the media has a tendency to be inaccurate in their depiction of the facts. His second critique was centered around the fact that most media personalities aren't scientists.

“I'm not making fun of the media, but rather, through these extreme examples, [I want] to show how difficult it is to convey this science to an audience, and how it can be exploited by individuals who know how the media works,” he remarked.

“The Arctic is going to go ice-free in the summer in the next decade or so, and there's nothing we can do to stop that. This is a change that is inherent in the climate system.”

ANDREW WEAVER
NOBEL PRIZE WINNER

Eventually delving into the real issue at hand—global warming—and its ability to shape the future of this world, Weaver was blunt in his assertion that at this point, there are just some realities that can't be escaped.

“The Arctic is going to go ice-free in the summer in the next decade or so, and there's nothing we can do to stop that. This is a change that is inherent in the climate system,” he stated.

Using the analogy of a boiling pot of water



PETE YEE

CLIMATE CRISIS Dr Andrew Weaver discusses the current state of global warming, what problems are inevitable, and what measures can be taken to prevent further environmental degradation.

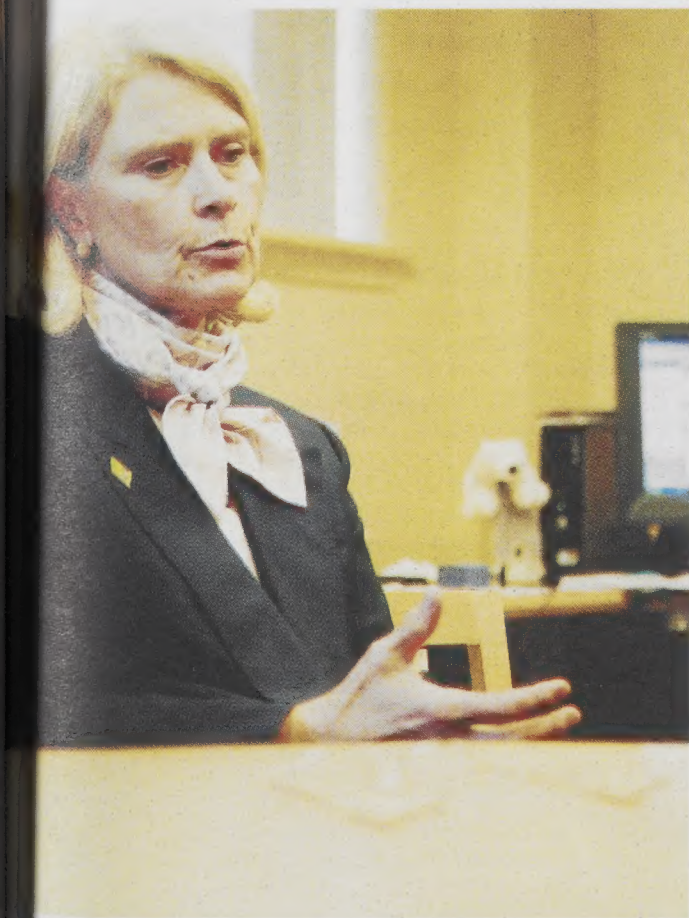
on a stove, he explained that turning down the heat will only prolong the end result, much like the effect of greenhouse gases, which are currently working to heat up our oceans.

Regardless of what measures are taken, as of now, certain effects are already in place.

“The difference in the next 20 or 30 years

is really quite small, no matter what path you take, and you translate that into policy. What I'm saying is that no matter which policy decisions we make today, the warming we have for the next 20 or 30 years is in the cards,” Weaver explained.

PLEASE SEE WEAVER ♦ PAGE 3



PETE YEE

MOR BUST Vice President (Finance and Administration) Phyllis Clark discusses the University's current financial situation in light of falling markets.

University of Alberta's financial situation experiences economic downward spiral

RYAN BEAUVAIS
News Writer

University of Alberta students could face cuts to scholarships, financial aid, and student services next year because of deepening losses in the University's investment holdings.

The recent downward spiral of global financial markets has sent U of A administrators to the drawing board to assess what services may need to be cut back and make decisions which could be felt by students and faculty as early as next fall.

Stock markets around the world have fallen 30 per cent in the last year, and 17 per cent since the beginning of this October alone. The drop has put a dent in the University's endowment fund because most of it is invested in equities and bonds.

“The decline in share values has hit us very hard,” U of A Vice President (Finance and Administration) Phyllis Clark explained. “We lost money last year on endowments, and we're going to lose money again.”

The fund, which saw a steep increase in losses from September to October, consists of donations to the University as well as tuition revenues and operating grants from the provincial government.

“We, like every other university that has an endowment, are really upset at what's happening.”

PHYLLIS CLARK
VP (FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION)

Its function as a financial tool of the university is to supply capital for scholarships, bursaries, and research. It can also be used to fund individual ventures ranging from chairs and professorships to additional maintenance of school facilities.

Clark's office is still processing a concrete dollar amount that has

been lost this term but at this point, she remarked that the fund “is overwhelmingly down.”

“We, like every other university that has an endowment, are really upset at what's happening,” she said.

Last year, the endowment funds of Canadian universities reached all-time highs, surpassing \$10 billion in assets. Now many schools are being forced to take drastic measures to preserve their holdings.

The University of Waterloo has frozen the hiring of new faculty members for the next six months, while the University of Victoria has scaled back the distribution of its endowments.

Only the University of Toronto may come out of the crisis relatively unscathed. In a statement released through their website on 23 October, the Vice President (Business Affairs) announced that the U of T's retention of a financial cushion during its years of high investment return will soften the impact of economic decline on its fund.

PLEASE SEE CUTBACKS ♦ PAGE 4

side

1-5
6-8
9-13
14-15
16-19
20
21



Ready to fall

On the phone from a food court, Rise Against tells us why they're really a bunch of goofs at heart

A&E, PAGE 9



Ready to stitch

Kelsey Tanasiuk talks about the world of do-it-yourself and what crafts are right for you

FEATURE, PAGE 14-15

Season's Greetings

Like many of our readers, the Gateway will be taking a much-needed holiday break. You can expect a return to journalism come January, but be sure to keep an eye out for a special present in next week's newsstands.

THE GATEWAY

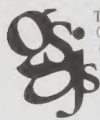
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AGLC report reveals continued trend of beer consumption

SCOTT FENWICK
News Staff

Beer is still big business in Alberta. According to the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission's (AGLC) latest annual report, beer makes up nearly half of the money spent on alcohol in this province.

The report, released earlier this month, revealed that of the nearly \$2 billion spent on alcohol in Alberta during the government's 2007-08 fiscal year, approximately \$896 million went toward beer.

"Traditionally, Alberta has always been one of the top beer-drinking provinces," said André Fortin, Director of Public Affairs of the Brewers Association of Canada. "We're obviously very happy that Albertans continue to enjoy beer."

According to the Association's statistics, Alberta was second only to the Yukon in consuming the most beer per capita in Canada during 2007. Although Fortin believes that Alberta's economic health and young population are factors for this, he stressed that there are many other forces influencing these statistics.

Likewise, John Pracejus, an assistant professor of marketing at the University of Alberta, explained that tradition, historical anomalies, and immigration trends can shape regional preferences.

"The question of why one region of the country prefers one product category to another is a really difficult thing to get a handle on," he said.

However, Ian MacLaren, a U of A professor in the English and Film Studies department, who home brews

beer as a hobby, sees things differently. As a beer buff that's familiar with the popular drink in Alberta, he feels that it's part of the provincial identity.

"There's a cultural tradition in Alberta to drink beer," he said.

"The fact that in our own backyard we can grow the premium ingredient in beer—which is barley—leaves us thinking [that] we're drinking locally."

Although major brewers don't usually appeal to Albertan regionalism—given that it's cheaper to run a single national campaign—local microbreweries easily entreat to this.

"We have very good local beers in Alberta and I'm surprised that more university-age people don't drink them," said MacLaren.

With major national brewers, Pracejus said that they typically market toward "emerging user groups," which include young people, such as students, who have recently reached the legal drinking age.

"By targeting people who are new to [consuming] alcohol, you can get people to adopt your brand early on in the cycle of consumption, [and] then you can hopefully maintain them as customers over a long period of time," he explained.

The AGLC report also showed that people are buying beer from retail outlets more than ever. MacLaren said that he isn't surprised, given the cost of beer at bars, adding that it makes drinking beer outdoors during the summer more attractive.

"More and more people find it unpalatable to pay \$7 for a glass of beer. That's a steep price to pay by comparison to what six bottles cost or six cans cost."



A COOL, FROSTY ONE According to a recent report, Albertans are still big fans of their brewskies, spending nearly \$896 million on beer in the last fiscal year.

CORRECTION

In our 25 November, 2008 issue, the term "ethnic females" was mistakenly used in Derek Warwick's article, "White Ribbon Days highlight abuses," which discussed statistics on domestic violence regarding women of a distinct racial identity.

This is an editorial error that was originally intended by the author to use the more inclusive term "women of colour." The Gateway apologizes for any confusion this may have caused.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
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Math IVIman Verjee
Arts IV

Just relaxing and doing absolutely nothing.

My birthday is right at my last exam, so I'm obviously going to do some drinking. And then I'm looking forward to Christmas shopping—that's my celebration or my gift to myself.

I'm baking cookies with some of my friends.

Sleeping. [Nothing else?] Watching T

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U of A researchers unveil new technique for locating craters

JUSTIN GORUK
Deputy News Editor

With the appearance of a fortuitous fireball streaking across the province on Thursday night, Dr Chris Herd, an associate professor in the department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences with the University of Alberta, has released his research on an impact crater recently discovered in Whitecourt.

Herd and his fellow associate professor Dr Duane Froese, began their analysis of the Whitecourt crater, located approximately 180km northwest of Edmonton in the summer of 2007. Their discovery led to a new method of uncovering the locations of craters.

It all started with a call from a local resident who thought they'd stumbled upon something of interest for a while.

"I responded with my typical healthy dose of skepticism, as I usually do when I get calls from people in the general public that think they've found meteorites. The reason for the skepticism is that more often than not, they're not meteorites," he recalled.

But as Herd explained to the media assembled for his recount of their findings, there was, in fact, a crater with meteorites in the area, and because of its tree-populated location, they used a unique form of technology to reveal the impact site.

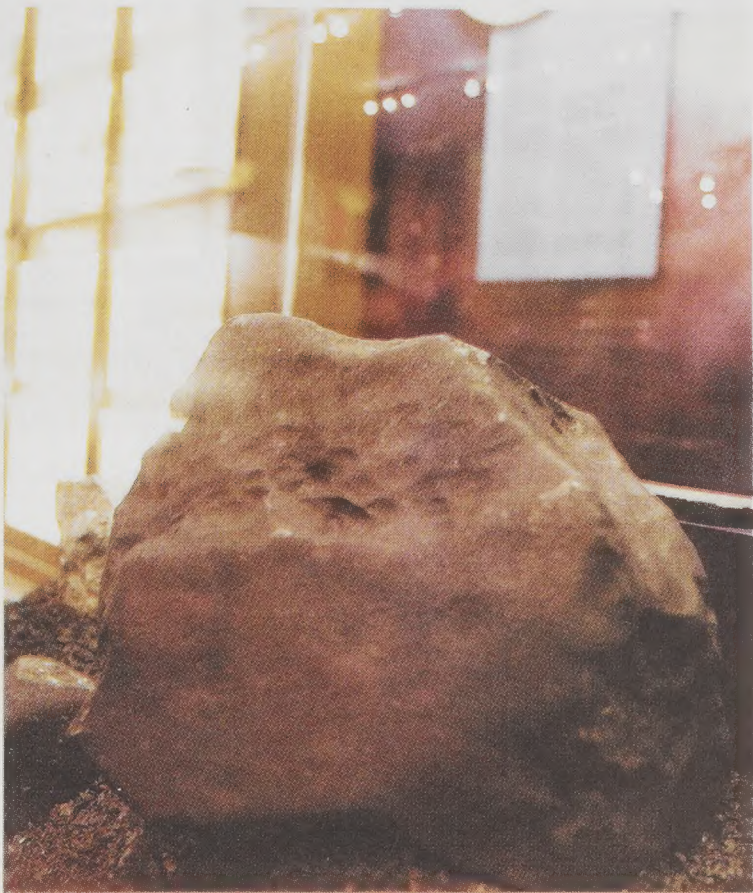
Froese suggested that instead of relying on obscure aerial shots or satellite imagery, the better choice was Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) technology, which, uses laser lights that bounce off the surface of an area to create a three-dimensional picture of the section of land.

In addition to being able to look past the forestry concealing the location of the crater, LiDAR also enabled them to learn more about the crater.

"It allowed us to make the measurements on the crater itself. Without the detailed LiDAR data, we would have had to go out and make the measurements in the field," Herd explained.

"From that, we could tell that [the crater] is 36m across, about a 120m [wide] and about 6m deep," he added.

The meteorite that created the crater is estimated to have landed 1100 years ago. It was made of about 92 per cent iron and 8 per cent nickel, and this discovery marks the first crater exposed on the surface of Alberta. It's one of twelve occurrences of its kind worldwide and is believed to have been part of an asteroid which formed 4.5 billion years ago from the dust between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.



PETE YEE

DEEP IMPACT Dr Chris Herd has released his research regarding a new type of technology that can be used to determine the location of impact craters.

In addition to gathering the technical information surrounding the crater, Herd's research has the ability to alter the current knowledge about the number of basins in existence.

"If we then start looking for those craters, then it can actually help us to refine some of those models of how often events of that size actually take place."

DR CHRIS HERD
EAS PROFESSOR

"The potential, now, is to use this LiDAR method to find other craters elsewhere, especially in forested areas around the world. The reason for that is because we expect there to be more craters [...] If we look at modeling that people have done, calculations on craters, we should have in that sort of size range in the last 10 000 years, something like 20 or more worldwide," Herd noted.

Herd also touched on the scientific significance surrounding further effort being put towards uncovering the loca-

tions of those hidden craters.

"If we then start looking for those craters and we find them, or we don't find them, then it can actually help us to refine some of those models of how often events of that size actually take place. So in that sense, by looking at the past history of impact craters, it helps us in some ways to predict the future," he stated.

In light of recent events, Herd pointed to the recent fireball as an example of how increased knowledge about meteorite occurrences can inform researchers and the public about future instances.

"Observations of that and estimates of how much material was involved in that fireball, put all of that stuff together and you can get an idea of how often an event of a certain size takes place," he said.

However, despite the attention surrounding that streak of light, Herd explained that employing the use of LiDAR would prove fruitless in cases like Thursday's meteorite.

"The problem there is that the fireball we saw last week, the brightness of it and the way it fragmented, probably means that it showered an area with rocks and didn't hold together to actually make a crater. As far as I would surmise, there's almost certainly not a crater associated with the fireball from last week," he concluded.

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Kyoto accord not doing enough: Weaver

WEAVER • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Here in Canada, Weaver explained that we can expect an increase in precipitation, mostly in the form of snow, which will occur less often, but with greater volume. He also said that we can look forward to drier summers.

Weaver also isn't convinced that the Kyoto accord packs enough punch to make any significant difference worldwide to ensure that we don't cross that two degree threshold of global climate increase.

With this less-than-optimistic reality in mind, Weaver stressed the fact that what happens from this point on will be crucial in preventing further

climate-related damage.

"This is a problem that our generation has created that has to be solved by the next generation so that their children can live in a better world," he noted.

To overcome these generational obstacles, Weaver is convinced that a more radical path must be embarked upon.

"If we can continue on the path to 100 per cent [carbon] reductions, this is good news [...] This is a target being discussed internationally and we [could] stay within the two degree threshold," he said.

While the rest of the world is debating the merits of such a move,

here in Alberta, he sees the province as sitting at a crossroads.

"Alberta has one of two paths to take. Right now [it's] a very wealthy province. Does it reap the benefits of today and continue to build and take as much as it can, while the rest of the world, as it must do, moves away from this dependence on fossil fuels and then Alberta's producing a product that no one wants?" Weaver questioned.

"Or does it recognize that it's wealthy now and that it should position itself for tomorrow, such that when it comes, Alberta is a leader in those new technologies that it has developed?"

Tuition rates unlikely to be affected

CUTBACKS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"However," the statement warned, "significant and long term losses could effectively eliminate the cushion."

The long-term consequences of the crisis for the U of A will only come into focus once it publishes its own annual budget next term.

Tuition rates will likely not be affected, Clark stated. Tuition revenue goes towards the operating budget, an area of the endowment fund that is subsidized by the provincial government, and she is certain that funding will remain at present levels.

"The transfers they make to us are built into their budget," she explained.

Additionally, services offered by the Students' Union are unlikely to see the kind of cuts that some University services may suffer.

SU Vice President (Operations and Finance) Steven Dollansky is confident that the SU will continue to generate enough stability through its own revenue from student fees and businesses.

"The fee revenue is about \$2 million, and that's a stable amount," Dollansky said.

"It's tied to enrollment and inflation, so that's a predictable revenue stream for us. [Business] has been relatively stable in the long-term due to the fact that that we have a wide range of business operations; it's not tied to one specific sector."

The University of Alberta's 2009 budget will be presented to the Board of Governors in early January.

Parasher-Sen fills historical Indian chair at U of A

ARAH SLACK
News Writer

This year marks the end of the University of Alberta's ability to fill a significant gap in the department of History and Classics's repertoire for Indian studies. In a search to further the discourse of study beyond the modern or religious, the Saroj and Prem Singhmar Chair was created for Classical Indian Polity and Society. It's a position that has brought Aloka Parasher-Sen to the table.

With an academic career diversely spent in places like Delhi, London, and Berkeley, she brings a historical expertise in ancient India to perfectly align with the studies opening up at the U of A.

Her PhD thesis, as well as her subsequent publications, focused particularly on the social history of early Indian attitudes towards foreigners and other tribes, and excluded castes. Parasher-Sen's work made her a Fellow at the Universitat Heidelberg in 1986, a Visiting Professor and Fulbright Scholar at Berkeley in 1992.

Parasher-Sen explained that the ancient histories of India are so rarely studied outside the umbrella of religious studies. However, the chair position at the U of A is uniquely focused on pure history, explaining why she is excited about the post.

"It allows me to be a pioneer of sorts," she exclaimed. "Ancient India would fit in so well with what's being covered by the Classics and History departments."

"It's ancient India in its true form: political and economic and societal,"



RYAN SHIPPEL

INDIAN INTERESTS Dr Parasher-Sen occupies the new Saroj and Prem Singhmar Chair in Classical Indian Polity and Society.

she added.

Course-work under Parasher-Sen will examine hard history like early state formation, as well as conceptual ideological and iconographic traditions, the dialogue of human arts on the subcontinent, and economic and cultural exchange with the Hellenistic world.

Because this is a new undertaking on a variety of levels, there will be difficulties as the field is built within the department.

"One has to take pains in getting the publicity of courses across," Parasher-Sen said. "Everything's so set over here, and set in the ways programs operate."

These are brand-new studies, and unfamiliar territory for both the students as well as faculty, and Parasher-Sen further

explained that consciousness-raising is an important part of the job. But the response, both on and off campus, has been a warm welcome.

"People, they want a study of India, it gives a lot of creative energy. And people who have been doing this work quietly in their own areas come out," she said, sharing her excitement from the interest in Indian history she has found in Alberta.

"The positive about exposing a community as a whole is finding there is a silent majority that really genuinely want to know. I'm aiming at interacting with this kind of group, not those that are only from India."

In fact, there has been so much interest, people are contacting her with inquiries into Indian past. Parasher-Sen elaborated on the importance of

exploring this history.

"There is inquisitiveness about where we come from. I think this inquisitiveness should extend itself," she said. "There is a collective sensibility that you inherit, a sensibility imbedded in the past."

She also plans to take the curiosity right to the source in a credited study abroad program for students to study in modern India.

"India should not simply be the object of study," Parasher-Sen asserted, "but the site of study."

Although Indian antiquity is an untried area at the University of Alberta and will be tested by challenges of reception and uncertainty, Parasher-Sen glows with the excitement she's come across in the academic and cultural community.

"It's a beautiful challenge."

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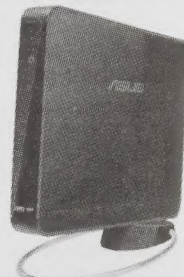


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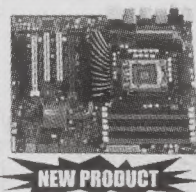
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NEWS BRIEFS

WHOOPIING COUGH OUTBREAK ON U OF A CAMPUS HAS HEALTH OFFICIALS CONCERNED

A recent campus outbreak of pertussis—more commonly known as whooping cough—has struck the University of Alberta's Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, causing students to take extra precautions to avoid getting ill at the end of the semester.

As of press time, two diagnosed cases of pertussis have been identified among second-year med/dent students, and reports of a high incidence of coughing have concerned public health officials.

"It's more than we expect. We don't want to see any pertussis, particularly among healthcare workers and students," said Marcia Johnson, Deputy Medical Officer of Health with Alberta Health Services.

"But it probably is more dramatic than we know, so we're on the lookout for it. We are asking students if they've got a cough to go in and get tested, and we are anticipating that we might find more cases."

Pertussis is considered an infectious disease alongside mumps, measles, and polio. While advances in vaccination have led to an approximately 99 per cent disappearance rate amongst most bacterial infections, pertussis remains one where the vaccine has proved not effective.

"Pertussis is one that's eluded such good control, though we've really increased it by more than 90 per cent," Johnson explained.

"But it really is one that continues to circulate in our communities and tends to cause problems in our communities in a cyclical manner—like every three to four years or so."

Johnson noted that a case of whooping cough can cause sleep disturbance, fractured ribs, and pneumonia in adults and adolescents, though the effects are worse—and potentially fatal—on infants. It is also contagious within the first three weeks, though often lasts much longer than that.

"The cough lasts about three months in an adult or adolescent, so about 100 days, and it's the first three weeks where you can spread it to other people [...] after that, you can't really spread it to people," she noted.

Alberta Health Services is working with the University Health Centre and Student Affairs in the Faculty of Medicine to ensure that students are tested for pertussis if they become symptomatic. Information letters have also been sent to all second year Medical and Dental students.

Johnson recommends that students follow the appropriate cough and sneeze protocol by covering their noses and mouths to prevent the spread of disease. She also stresses the importance of immunization against infectious diseases like pertussis.

—Jennifer Huygen, Senior News Editor

WEB TOOL AIDS IMMIGRANTS WITH POSTSECONDARY CHOICES

A new tool to investigate the strengths and weaknesses of postsecondary institutions has been added to canadianimmigrant.ca that aims to alleviate at least some of the burden facing immigrants, particularly those in search of further education.

It's a feature that Nick Noorani, founder and publisher of Canadian Immigrant, hopes will provide immigrants with the information needed to make choices about postsecondary education.

"Immigrants, when they come here, a huge majority of them go and get

education and upgrade their skills. So for us, our mandate is to inform, educate, and motivate immigrants. It's important to give them this information—it can be pretty hard to come by—especially if you're new to the country," Noorani said.

In collaboration with Edge Interactive, a tool called School Finder allows immigrants to look through a database of over 1700 colleges and universities from across the country, providing them with a diverse cross section of information.

"The Edge Interactive site allows us to give to our readers a tool that will help them to compare different kinds of entries, exits, or whatever kinds of diploma or graduation. They can check out the various scholarships available, as well as the different fees," Noorani said.

Through this strategic alliance, the website will provide vital and unfamiliar information about the postsecondary education system.

Noorani is also confident in its ability to help those who are in the midst of not only considering a postsecondary education or upgrade, but also potential immigrants.

"Before they come to the country, they can start looking and checking around for the different courses they need to get, as well as preparing themselves for any kind of special certification that they need to bring with them," he said.

For Noorani and the website, School Finder is simply another way to provide the best possible services to their users.

"It's just to give them the advantage of information about various programs, residences, and housing, and student life—everything. It's all there, and it just gives them all that information in one composite structure," he said.

—Kirsten Goruk, Deputy News Editor

Faculty of Science

STUDENTS:

Nominations are invited for the 2008/2009
Faculty of Science Award for Excellent Teaching

Some previous winners:

2007/2008 - Dr. Michael Deyholos, Department of Biological Sciences

2006/2007 - Dr. Dragos Hrimiuc, Department of Mathematical and Statistical Science

2006/2007 - Dr. Dennis Hall, Department of Chemistry

2005/2006 - Dr. Chien-Ping Paul Lu, Department of Computing Science

2004/2005 - Dr. Alkiviathes Meldrum, Physics

2004/2005 - Dr. Gerda deVries, Mathematical and Statistical Science

Nomination Procedures: A letter of nomination signed by at least 10 undergraduate students plus any supporting material, which is thought to be appropriate, should be submitted to the Chair of the Award for Excellent Teaching Committee for each nominee. The appropriate science department will ensure that all nominations are fully documented before submission to this Committee.

Eligibility: Nominees for the Faculty of Science Award for Excellent Teaching must have held a full time Faculty appointment in the Faculty of Science at this University for at least five years prior to nomination. Previous Winner(s) of the award are excluded from further competition.

Students can also nominate Professors from a Faculty other than Science to receive a Certificate for Excellent Teaching (details are available from CW223 Biological Sciences Building).

Contact the Chair of the Faculty of Science Award for Excellent Teaching Committee:

Dr. Brenda Leskiw, Associate Dean
Faculty of Science
CW223 Biological Sciences Building
brenda.leskiw@ualberta.ca

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS:
January 19, 2009



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It's looking to be a lean Christmas

AS THE GATEWAY WRAPS UP PUBLISHING FOR the fall semester, it seems appropriate to reflect on the major global events that have taken place over the past three months, and muse over the future effects they're bound to have on us.

First, Fall 2008 saw the advent of a global economic crisis and the reemergence of that taboo word, "recession," back into mainstream vocabulary. World stock markets have fallen approximately 30 per cent in the past year, coupled with volatility on the exchange. This has caused governments to cut interest rates, tighten their belts on spending, and pump billions of dollars into national economies to keep financial institutions afloat. All in a day's work.

News reports and government leaders spit out keywords like bonds, assets, and liquidity to try to explain exactly what is going on to the general public. But despite their best efforts, the financial crisis still remains pretty ambiguous, at least to someone like me who engages only in simple banking.

But no sooner are the real implications of recession evident than when you step into a store this holiday season. Christmas is supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year, but where has that spirit gone?

Instead of decking the halls with boughs of holly, malls are concerned about their inventory and business. Holiday sales are not expected to be as generous as they have been in the past. But the magic of the Christmas list will still be a boost to consumer confidence, since students will be receiving the gifts that they can't afford themselves.

If a global financial crisis wasn't enough to put a smile on your face this holiday season, perhaps the increasing effects of global climate change are. Another major issue that seemed to permeate campus and the international community this semester was the topic of environmental sustainability.

Like the financial markets, climate change can often seem like a distant subject. Sure, we know what scientists predict the world will look like in 30 years and sure, we know it's going to be bad, but we assume it's going to affect the Arctic and low-lying areas before it touches the landlocked plains of great Alberta. Although it could be a random flux, we are witnessing a notable absence of that ultimate symbol of the holiday season—snow.

My childhood in Edmonton was always marked by Halloween costumes fitting over snowsuits because the end of October hailed the beginning of the snow and cold—indeed, I made a very convincing oversized bunny. The end of this semester—nearly one month after Halloween—has seen uncharacteristically warm temperatures and a glaring lack of the white stuff.

Holiday shopping and snow define the Canadian Christmas season. While they might be shallow indicators of the joy and hope that is supposed to be spread at this time of the year, they're nonetheless traditions that the majority of us have come to cherish and enjoy. That, and Christmas specials on TV, which hopefully won't be affected by all of the stuff that's taken place this year.

As the fall semester—and its unfortunate global happenings—comes to a close, the full effects of the last three months will be felt at a level closer to home this Christmas. I just hope that by 25 December, the days might be a little more merry and bright.

JENNIFER HUYGEN
Senior News Editor

Use bombs wisely

Yesterday, during a jaunt across campus, I noticed the signs planted across Quad representing cluster mines, in anticipation of the signing of the global treaty to ban them by world governments in Oslo next week. While I'm not sure how effective they were advocacy-wise, I did observe that they seemed to keep people off the grass and on the pathways. I'm planting similar signs in my fridge tonight: hopefully they'll be more effective at keeping my roommates away from my pie than cling wrap with my name on it.

LUCAS WAGNER
Online Editor



KELSEY TANG

LETTERS

Avi Lewis highlights the uselessness of science

Dear Mr Lewis: I understand that artsy folk study Arts because they want to do what they love—that's perfectly respectable (Re: "Students celebrate value of arts degrees," 25 November). But I must admit I was quite flustered when you claimed that you studied Arts because "it's the only thing that can change the world." Then I realized that agriculture, architecture, medicine, navigation, internal combustion, cellular biology, manned flight, and nuclear fission didn't influence mankind in the slightest.

Thank you for that tidbit—I will drop engineering right away in order to pursue a purposeful career in metaphysics.

SHENGXI JIN
Engineering II

Censorship makes life a hell of a lot easier

Tuesday's opinion piece is ridiculous (re: "Junk food ad bans leave a bad taste," 25 November). Parents today are far too busy with important things to worry about teaching their children silly things like right and wrong, moral and social responsibility, and basic hygiene and healthy eating.

So instead, what we need to do is make laws that ban anything offensive, like junk food, tobacco, porn, and freedom of speech and choice.

JOEL LONGARD
Education III

Gateway competition a waste of moustaches

I know that both November and the moustache competition are almost

over, but I figured "better late than never."

As interesting as this competition is in showing which Gateway staff have completed puberty and which haven't, there's a deeper purpose that could be added to it.

In Australia, November is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. I know, touchy subject; but there, in Australia, awareness is raised on a national scale in a similar way as the moustache contest. The men in Australia don't shave, shave interesting designs into, or shave certain styles of facial hair. The idea is to have a moustache, goatee, full on beard, or something for the month of November to bring attention to a highly treatable but rarely discussed cancer.

Now, whether or not the facial hair brings the men of Australia to have their prostate checked is debatable, but it does raise awareness and money for research. My boyfriend's cousin is married to a guy from Australia and he has carried "Moustache November" with him to Canada. As in the Gateway competition, this has made it clear in my boyfriend's family who has and has not finished puberty.

If this contest is something you plan on doing next year, it might be beneficial to include prostate cancer awareness as part of the publicity. As much as I'm not a fan of the teenstache or the Mountain Man Beard, I am a fan of treating and preventing cancer. So best of luck to all the moustache competitors and hopefully this idea could be taken into consideration in the next moustache competition.

EDEN DELL
Via email

Dino debate, round two

In response to the gentleman last Tuesday who was upset about the misspelling of the word T. Rex

(Re: "Gateway 'rex' their ad with poor dino grammar," 18 November), I would just like to point out that as T. Rex is an abbreviation for the species Tyrannosaurus Rex, it is properly abbreviated T. Rex, not T Rex. At least that's how the Oxford English Dictionary, one of the most respected references in the English language, chooses to spell it.

[Editor's note: Travis Hnidan's letter originally included periods, but was edited to conform with Gateway style, which omits periods unless they end a sentence. The periods were retained in this letter for the sake of clarity.]

BARRY BOHNET
Science IV

Cure inclusive diseases

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank the Carleton University Student's Association (CUSA) for giving a big Carleton University "fuck you" to the worldwide sufferers of cystic fibrosis by cancelling their Shinerama Fundraiser. It was about time. I mean, really, "cystic fibrosis?" Come on, catch some HIV or something and we'll talk.

And another thing; if these patients don't like Carleton's decision, what's preventing them from holding their own fundraisers (well, other than cystic fibrosis)? Sure the \$1 million in fundraising would have aided researchers in treating this largely chauvinistic disease, but maybe now these researchers will focus their efforts on a more notable cause like Landau-Kleffner syndrome.

The CUSA has inspired me to take action against other biased and uniform causes that we previously thought were worthwhile, by lobbying my Student's Union to cut out these fundraisers once and for all.

Where to start? Sickle Cell Anemia? No, I've got it: violence Against Women. That's it; it doesn't get any more biased than that.

Finally, I think we are making progress here.

In the same fashion that Brita Smyth, Meera Chander, and the majority of the Carleton Student Association took it upon themselves to speak on behalf of the Carleton Student Body, I would like to thank them on behalf of Canadian postsecondary students for their courage and forward thinking. As "Canada's Capital University" you have made us all very proud.

CHARLIE FOSTER
Science

Goertz right on sexist

Bravo to Anthony Goertz for his letter about the sexist ads found in The Gateway (re: "Gateway should drop the sexist and offensive ads," 25 November). I too am often distressed by these images and I'm happy that someone took the time to speak out against them.

I find it very interesting that in the same issue in which Anthony's letter was printed, there was an ad by Derek Warwick, speaking out against abuse toward women. A better way to promote violence toward women than to objectify them and portray them as tools for sexual gratification?

LEILA MCNEIL

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of a letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters should be under 350 words and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.

When PC tolerance runs amok

Carleton's "progressive" stance on cystic fibrosis is inclusiveness gone wrong

CONAL
PIERSE



It's becoming increasingly hard to defend universities as being anything more than a breeding ground for misguided liberalism that serves no purpose other than as a blind attempt to "make a statement." While there certainly is a lot of good accomplished by the more left-leaning ideas that the academic atmosphere promotes, it's unfortunate that all too often, people witlessly take these ideas and apply them without thought in the hopes of seeming "progressive" or "conscientious."

There's no better example of this than the Council of Carleton University Students' Association's (CUSA) recent decision to cancel Shinerama, a fundraising campaign for the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, because it wasn't an inclusive enough illness. This was based on information provided by a former CUSA executive that claimed that cystic fibrosis primarily affects Caucasians, and of those, the majority are men. That's right; according to CUSA, cystic fibrosis is the true "white man's burden," and one that they feel he should carry alone.

I'm sure it sounded awfully progressive when the issue was first brought forward—after all, it's very important that we try to be as inclusive as possible to ensure that we're being fair. But here they allowed the appearance of political correctness and progression to cloud reason and good judgment. The fact that a disease or social ill is more common amongst

a certain population should never be a factor in deciding that issues' merit. Tay-Sachs is more prevalent amongst the Ashkenazi Jews, Sexual violence and spousal abuse are primarily directed at women, and HIV and AIDS infections have their highest frequencies amongst homosexual and African populations. Does this make any of these a charitable cause unworthy of help, simply because not every demographic is affected equally? Absolutely not.

So quick and resolute in their decision were they, that no one bothered to check the facts in order to discover how much truth there was to these claims.

Perhaps most disheartening is that, were it any other population, these concerns would be disregarded as bigoted, and rightfully so. However, in this case, they unfortunately mistook the facts as a sign of yet another advantage to white males, and did their best to rectify the situation. And so quick and resolute in their decision were they, that no one bothered to check the facts in order to discover how much truth there was to these claims.

Had they bothered to corroborate this information rather than simply acting on their well-trained progressive gut reaction, they would have discovered that, while CF is more prevalent amongst populations of European descent, it's no more likely in males or females. Furthermore,

while the proportion of carriers of CF amongst other populations is lower, it doesn't by any stretch mean that they are immune—especially when you take interracial marriages into account.

Though this decision seems outwardly discriminatory, CUSA claims the opposite. In fact, their President Brittany Smyth informed CTV that this clause in no way affected councilors' votes, and that they chose to discontinue Shinerama in order to focus their charitable efforts elsewhere.

But while this would be believable if the motion also included better options for fundraising, or additional causes that they could likewise donate to as part of a larger, more inclusive campaign, this was not the case. Their reaction was far too quick and rash to be indicative of anything other than discrimination based on race and gender.

Had they actually taken the time to discuss this issue with students, they would have realized beforehand the widespread outrage this decision would generate. And though CUSA now plans to revisit the issue in an emergency council meeting Monday night, their actions remain reprehensible nonetheless.

We still have a long way to go before we achieve true equality, but this disgusting incident illustrates that we can't pursue this ideal blindly and without reason. Doing the right thing should never be a clear-cut and easy decision. It requires open discussion and critical thinking—two things that universities are meant to foster and encourage. But rather than truly learning these lessons, CUSA simply took the easy route, reacting based on how they think progressive individuals are supposed to, rather than truly understanding how they should.

The Man still keeping undergrads down

PAUL
KNOECHEL



"Each year the price goes up, and subsequently, each year more students are forced to look for accommodations elsewhere. Each year less undergrads are able to experience the residence lifestyle, and as one that's been through it myself, I can say that they're missing out."

An increase of 29.2 per cent is large by almost any scale. If I were to gain 29.2 per cent of my body mass in weight, I'd gain an impressive 58 pounds. If my bank account statement were to increase by 29.2 per cent, let's just say I wouldn't have to toy with the idea of hooking to make it to the end of the school year with a roof over my head. And, conversely, if my most obvious measure of manhood were to swell by 29.2 per cent, I'd have a very promising career in the adult entertainment business.

Of course, in the real world, things just don't grow without any reciprocal action. Besides being hated by hanging fruits the world over, Newton outlined some fairly important tenets of nature in his laws of thermodynamics; not the least of which is "for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction." So to gain 58 pounds, I'd have to eat a lot of bad feelings away. To increase my bank account 29.2 per cent, I'd have to sling a whole lot of crack rock. And if were to extend my "hammer"

out 29.2 per cent, there would be an excruciating amount of surgery to endure. The point is, things typically are destined to balance themselves out in the end.

However, apparently our dear U of A administration slept through their physics classes, because the cost of living in residence has gone up a ridiculous 29.2 per cent in the past three years, while students entering this year aren't seeing that much more for their money than the students from years gone past. In fact, it could be argued that the powers that be have actually been trying to give them less for the increased price—the attempted restructuring of the Lister Hall political system comes to mind.

And while deferred maintenance costs have been cited as a major reason for the rent increase, it wasn't long ago that the administration was trying to justify these hikes because the market price was going up. But these both fall through as sound reasonings when these "deferred maintenance" funds are swallowed

up in the abyss of the general U of A budget, never again to be seen by the people that paid for them. Not to mention how, if you stop and realize that a Lister room is essentially an extended closet with a bed, it doesn't accurately reflect the general market conditions.

I'm still looking for the logic to these grossly inflated rent increases, and maybe that's my main failing right there. Perhaps I should simply submit to a decision that's going to be made, regardless of its impact to the student body or the opponents of it. Each year the price goes up, and subsequently, each year more students are forced to look for accommodations elsewhere. Each year less undergrads are able to experience the residence lifestyle, and as one that's been through it myself, I can say that they're missing out.

But of course, it's mostly the undergrads that are getting hurt by this, and if there's one thing I've learned again and again in my long tenure here, it's that the administration doesn't give a damn about them.

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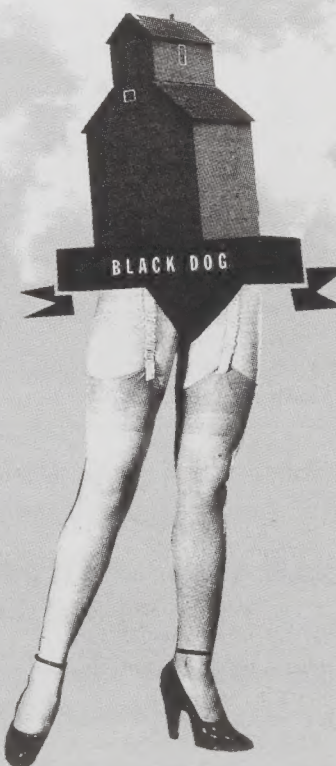
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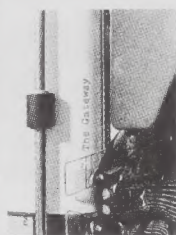
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Obese passengers shouldn't get free ride

The Supreme Court of Canada's airline ruling has set a worrisome precedent



SANJAY BEESON

these carriers may not charge more than one fare for persons with disabilities who require additional seating for themselves, including those determined to be functionally disabled by obesity"

In a time when Canada is facing an unprecedented epidemic of obesity and associated chronic problems such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and hypertension—that cost Canadian taxpayers billions of dollars every year, this decision is sending the wrong public health message to the population.

It's curious whether those who made this decision carefully thought about the greater risk of stigmatization that some obese people occupying two seats may face.

Most importantly, obesity is abundantly described in medical literature as being predictable, preventable, and quite often, treatable. This decision is telling the population that it's fine to be obese, that a government agency is making provisions for you, and that more decisions may come to defend your interests.

Some people have already started to argue that they're not ready to pay

an "obesity air tax" on behalf of those who aren't willing to control their weight or refuse to exercise.

The practical implementation of the decision is questionable. Will passengers have to undergo medical tests and, if so, what tests? It's unclear when and where they will be carried out, or what the operational definition of "obesity" will be. The authorities have remained largely silent on whether it will be based on the Body Mass Index (BMI) cut-value defined by Canada, proposed by the World Health Organization, or set by the International Obesity Task Force.

Now that the CTA has accepted the responsibility to cater to obese people, they may have to acknowledge that passengers with long legs or pregnant women travel with greater discomfort on domestic flights. If people accompanied with their dogs might deserve an additional seat, their four-legged companions will.

It's curious whether those who made this decision carefully thought about the greater risk of stigmatization that some obese people occupying two seats may face. In this respect, the choice is counter-productive when it comes to accommodating its target group.

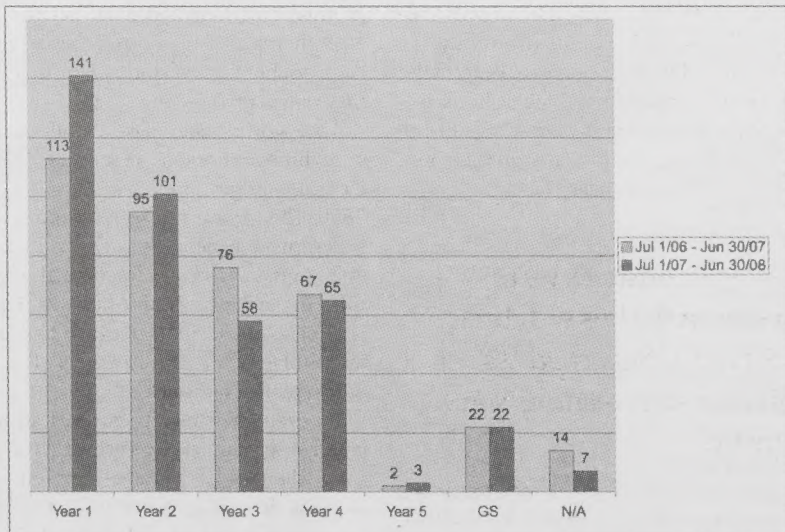
I have strong doubts that the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada to dismiss the airlines' application will do any good to this country. It will only serve to encourage and reward obesity, and to further handicap our already struggling carriers.

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5th Annual Engineer Head Shave

Friday, 28 November at 11am
ETLC Solarium

Who says engineers have cold, steely hearts built with iron frames, oil for blood, and TI-83s for brains? Certainly not anyone at the Gateway. Hopefully some of our warm-blooded engineering-type volunteers will turn out to have their heads shaved in support of the Alberta Cancer Foundation.

The Engineer Head Shave has raised \$115 000 over the last four years and this year's goal is to push the total to \$150 000. You may want to support them by chroming your noggin, cheering on your friends, or just sitting in silent satisfaction as you work to solve two of life's problems: cancer, and nerds who have the one-two punch of both money and flowing locks—a constant hurdle for equally dashing arts students. But either way, come on down to the Solarium and help this worthwhile cause.

Great Big Sea

Sunday, 30 November at 7pm
Jubilee Auditorium (11455-87 Ave)
Sold Out

Hailing from the far-away lands of Newfoundland and Labrador, Great Big Sea, Canada's most renowned Celtic-rock band, are ready to melt our icy, dollar-centric western hearts with sea shanties and more lip than three rubber boots.

All right, so the competition to be Canada's most renowned Celtic-rock band is not all that fierce. Just to give you an idea, they've won *Entertainer of the Year* at every East Coast Music Awards from 1996–2000 and finally withdrew their names from the ballot to give other lesser known groups a moment in the sun—or the light rain, if you happen to be from out east.

But that was seven years ago, an eternity in the music biz, and the band still hasn't slowed down. Released in June, their latest album, *Fortune's Favour*, has already risen to gold sales.

Martha Wainwright

Monday, 1 December at 7:30pm
Myer Horowitz Theatre (SUB)
\$25 at ticketmaster.ca

Martha Wainwright has, in the three years since the release of her self-titled album, managed to firmly step from the weighty musical shadow of her family and establish herself as one of Canada's brightest folk music prospects.

Daughter of blues musician Loudon Wainwright III and sister of Rufus Wainwright might have given her a leg up in the industry, but thankfully, the young songstress doesn't seem to share her older brother's former passion for crystal meth.

Radioforhelp

with *The Weekend Kids*, *Acronycal*, *One Day Late*
Friday, December 12 at 9pm
Starlite Room (10030-102 St)
\$10 at Blackbyrd Myoozik, Listen Records and ticketmaster.ca, or \$15 at the door

After an extensive sojourn into the heartland of Saskatchewan, Edmonton's own Radioforhelp will come home for their final show of the year. Will they arrive home safe? Will they ever tour again? Will they record an album in the new year?

The answer to all these questions is yes, probably. The more good news, in the new year, they'll be working again with Randor Lin of Turnkey Studio to start recording and producing their new album. Rumour has it that the December's show will feature music off their upcoming record.

SEAN STEELS

Wildly swinging his word fists



Rising Against the political stereotype

They may show a fervour for protest, but Joe Principe insists that his band has a sense of humour

musicpreview

Rise Against

With *Thursday* and *Sage Francis*
Wednesday, 3 December at 7pm
Shaw Conference Centre (9797 Jasper Ave)
Sold Out

JOHN KMECH
Arts & Entertainment Editor

As Joe Principe of Rise Against discusses their new album, *Appeal to Reason*, during a break in their sound check, the phone suddenly goes silent. With their reputation as a politically active hardcore punk act in mind, it's easy to imagine the band being caught in the haze of tear gas as they try to escape the nightsticks of riot cops with faces covered in bandanas, tossing molotov cocktails, and raising middle fingers to the sky.

But Principe soon clarifies that the momentary lapse in his thought pattern is less WTO protest than typically strange shopping centre sighting.

"Sorry, I'm sort of distracted by this Cub Scout in the mall who's wearing a Crocodile Dundee hat," says the bassist and band co-founder. "It's kind of weird."

Playing the role of mallrats while they rested prior to a show in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Principe and the rest of his bandmates were heading towards the food court to hang out. The bassist explains that even though they understand the stereotype of them being a group of soberly minded activists, there's an entirely opposite side of them that they'd like fans to understand.

"We're pretty goofy and we all have really quirky senses of humour," Principe says. "When we're offstage, we're probably on the bus watching *Old School* or *Superbad*. It's not like we start reading Noam Chomsky."

Even though Rise Against may spend their leisure time deliberating the follies of McLovin rather than the follies of American foreign and domestic policy, they still speak loudly with both their actions and words.

Besides Tim McIlrath's politically motivated lyrics, the band are the favoured sons of PETA, campaigning actively for animal rights and vegetarianism. And while tales of a girlfriend crushing a forlorn vocalist's heart with her stiletto may have a certain allure, Principe believes that their intellectual slant makes their music outlast other bands on rock radio.

"There's a little bit more to a song like 'Ready to Fall' or 'Prayer of the Refugee' than, say, a Blink 182 song. It's not just fluff. I mean, I like those songs—I like Blink 182, and I'm not going to say that I don't—but I think there's a time and a place for everything. We like to have a bit of substance behind the lyrics, and I think that's why the impact of bands like Bad Religion, Pennywise, and The Dead Kennedys is still felt right now—it's because their lyrics are so powerful. I like to think we're carrying that over to 2008, because there's not a lot of bands doing this."

"When we're offstage, we're probably on the bus watching *Old School* or *Superbad*. It's not like we start reading Noam Chomsky."

JOE PRINCIPLE
BASSIST, RISE AGAINST

Appeal To Reason was the name of the newspaper put out by the Leftist/Socialist Party of America back in the late 19th century. But Principe explains that Rise Against's concept behind the album lay in the common sense solutions that evade people every day, like recycling and taking care of the environment. However, he notes that the band are optimistic when it comes to the direction of the world, especially in the wake of Barack Obama's recent election.

"I think there's an incredible sense of hope and a big sigh of relief when he won," Principe muses. "I think there's a climate of change already

happening. I'm not saying the economy is going to be fixed in a month, but it's a good start."

Still, even with hope on the horizon, the problems of the last eight years in America won't end overnight, particularly with the war in Iraq. Regardless of their leftist ideals, however, Rise Against has built a committed following amongst US servicemen angry at their government and the band has passionately demonstrated at Iraq Veterans Against The War rallies.

"That's what the song 'Hero of War' is about. The government does not give a fuck at all about war veterans," Principe exclaims bluntly. "They promise one thing and then they cut their benefits, they cut their pay, and they're expected to do a double tour of duty when they were told they only had to do one."

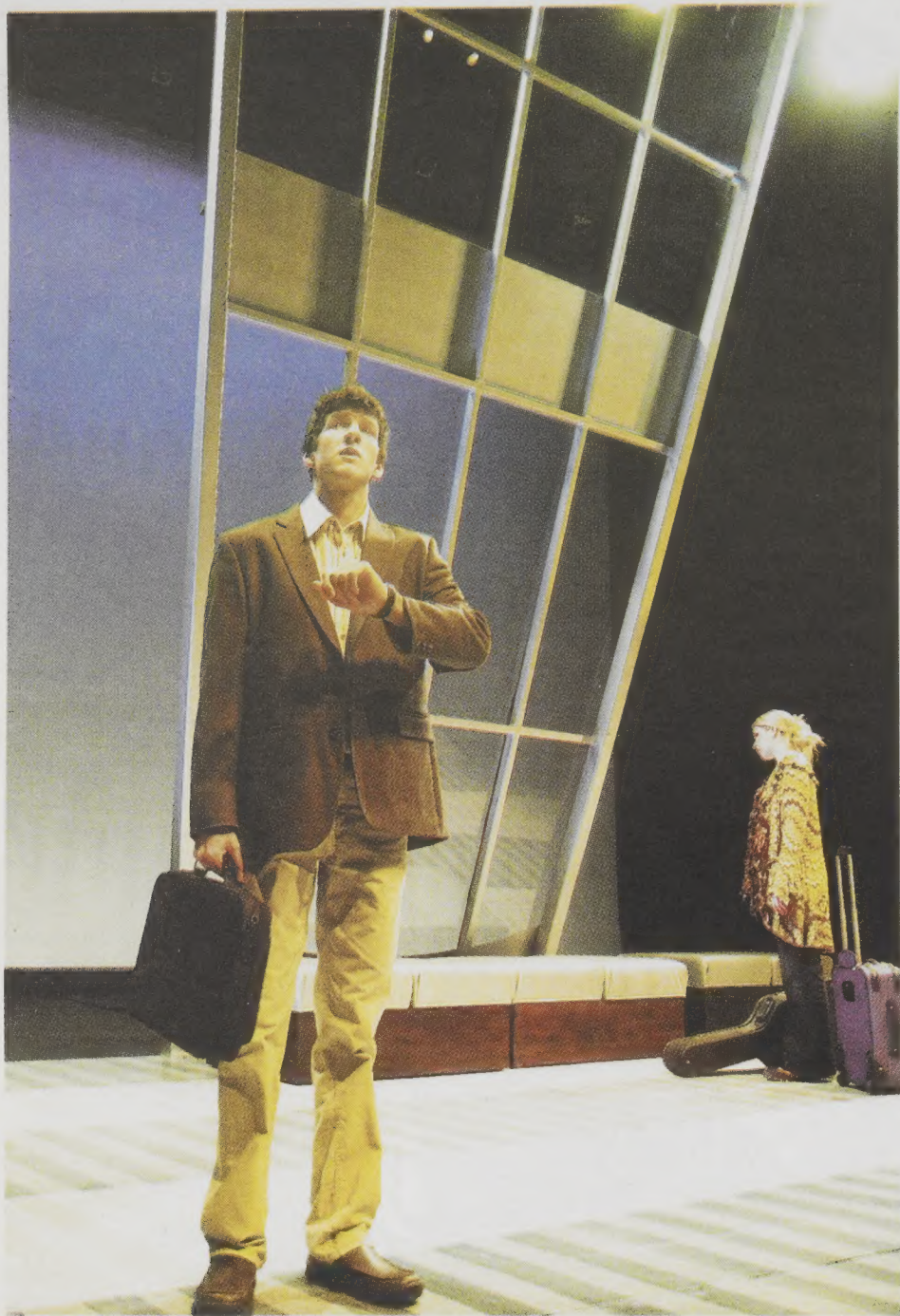
"The government puts a dollar amount on your limbs," Principe continues. "If you lose an arm, you get \$300. If you lose a leg, you get \$600. Then you get to wait six months for your government benefits to kick in, then you can finally get counselling for mental anguish and suffering or for medical treatments. Then, when your benefits kick in, you're expected to pay back the \$300 for your missing arm. It's like, what the fuck is that? It's just sick."

But even after his tone turns deathly serious, Principe relaxes and returns to his laid-back style when asked about a dark but considerably less disturbing recent project of theirs, the band's recording of "Making Christmas" for *The Nightmare Before Christmas: Nightmare Revisited* soundtrack.

"That was fun, but it was the hardest thing we ever had to do. We broke that song up into 36 different parts because the time signatures were so quirky. But it came out so good that Danny Elfman actually wrote us a letter saying that he really liked the end result, and he's never written a band before, so we're really stoked about that."

But even though he swears they're not as serious as their image suggests, they still wouldn't be "stoked" enough to close out a bar.

"We're kind of boring when it comes to bands," he laughs. "I don't drink. Except for coffee—that's my vice."



IT'S NOT YOU, IT'S ME The characters in *Without You* find out that breaking up is hard to do.

PETE YEE

All the me-stakes of romances

Without You looks at the choices that both break and mend hearts
theatrepreview

Without You

Directed by Bradley Moss

Written by Nicole Moeller

Starring Samantha Duff, Vincent Forcier, Blythe Haynes, and Matthew McKinney

27 November–6 December at 7:30pm

Timms Centre for the Arts (87 Ave and 112 St)

\$10–20 at tixonthesquare.com or Timms Centre Box Office

BEN DEXTRAZE

Arts & Entertainment Staff

For its next production, the U of A's Studio Theatre decided to take a risk with a romantic comedy penned by a local playwright. And because Nicole Moeller's play, *Without You*, was written during the annual 24-hour playwriting competition held by the U of A's Bookstore, the story of how the play made it to the Timms Centre stage is nearly as riveting as the play itself.

"I am not cutting myself down—I worked hard to get here—but there are a lot of people that could be where I am right now," Moeller says.

The 26-year-old playwright is a graduate of both the Journalism and Theatre Arts programs at Grant MacEwan College and has been humbled by having her play produced at the illustrious Timms Centre, and rightly so. Having staged only two other plays prior to this—a one-act at Nextfest and a self-produced work at the Edmonton Fringe Festival—Moeller is exhilarated but also understandably nervous to see her project become a reality for students.

"Every day, I say to myself how lucky I am. This whole city—this whole community—is just so encouraging. Everyone is so excited and it just makes me so happy to be here."

According to director Bradley Moss, who is also the current artistic director of Theatre

Network, he was immediately struck by the candor of Moeller's play. Having seen it staged at the University Bookstore's playwriting competition, Moss, as well as many others, immediately fell in love with the piece.

"[Some Drama faculty members] were there and they saw the beauty and the potential of [Without You]—there was no question. We all said, 'let's do this.' It was perfect," Moss explains. "What a great risk to be so reactive. I really applaud the University for making this happen."

Without You centers on two protagonists: Scott, a Masters student, and Gabrielle, an aspiring musician. When the couple spontaneously decide to get married, things start to go awry as their lives don't want to accommodate their future plans. In a brash decision, one of them leaves the relationship with cold feet, unsure if they've really found the love of their life.

"The dual protagonists in the play allow for a unique connection with the audience. The sense that we see two people making the wrong choices, lying, and committing all the 'me-stakes' of life—as I like to call them—allows us to also cheer for them," Moss explains. "Nicole [Moeller] has a unique ability to do this. We watch people really screw up their relationship, but we actually want them to work it out. Because the audience is placed between both sides of the story, we have the ability to cheer for one side or the other—or both."

Adding to this, Moeller says that "I'm obsessed with the idea that we can be having a conversation, but, what is really going on in our heads? What intentions are we actually bringing to the table? I love that. Maybe it's being a little cynical, but it happens in any conversation."

"What I tried to capture [in *Without You*] is something that we all know, but what we don't necessarily want to admit to, and that's great to see onstage because you can see the characters doing something that you might do—I think that's why we go to theatre."



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Four Christmases earns no gifts

filmreview

Four Christmases

Directed by Seth Gordon
Starring Vince Vaughn, Reese Witherspoon, Robert Duvall, and Sissy Spacek
Opens 26 November

SAKAI STEAD
Arts & Entertainment Staff

In order to be classified as a Christmas movie, a film must have at least one of the following essential plot elements: one, there must be copious amounts of Christmas music, the colours red and green, and snow; two, a small child must have their faith restored in Santa; or three, imminent disaster must threaten to ruin Christmas, only to be averted by the magic of the "Christmas Spirit."

The lack of any of the above vital Christmas story tropes is why *Four Christmases* just doesn't hit the mark as a holiday film. The movie does, however, succeed somewhat as a comedy, but there just simply isn't enough Christmas cheer for it to comfortably be considered a yuletide treat.

Of course, comedy and Christmas need not be mutually exclusive—it worked for *Elf*—but a stability must exist between the genres. Unfortunately, *Four Christmases* falls short of this balance.

The film begins with the happy couple of Brad (Vince Vaughn) and Kate (Reese Witherspoon) planning

a holiday getaway to Fiji. Being from California, it's not the weather they're getting away from, but rather they're escaping from their families. Both Brad and Kate have divorced parents, which has kept the couple, who have been together for three years, from getting married.

Additionally, it has kept the couple from visiting each others' families at Christmas—the prospect of trying to visit all four households for the holidays is just too overwhelming. Hence, every year, Brad and Kate lie about doing charity work for orphans overseas and go on a holiday by themselves instead to avoid all the family drama.

Of course, comedy and Christmas need not be mutually exclusive—it worked for *Elf*—but a stability must exist between the genres. Unfortunately, *Four Christmases* falls short of this balance.

Unsurprisingly, the couple's flight is cancelled and they must face the daunting task of visiting all four parents in one day while dealing with all the predictable family shenanigans. Brad gets beat up by his two brothers who have become semi-professional cage fighters and Kate's sister (Kristin Chenoweth) reveals that Kate was an obese preteen with an embarrassing

nickname. During each visit, more secrets about Brad and Kate's pasts are revealed, leading the couple to question how well they really know each other.

The problem is that none of these revelations are particularly shocking enough to elicit the angry responses Brad and Kate trade with each other. Both members of the couple seem to feel deeply betrayed by each other's youthful secrets, even though none of them affect their current relationship. It's like having your mom show your boyfriend of girlfriend embarrassing photos from your childhood. Annoying? Yes. Relationship threatening? No.

While all of this occurs upon a background of Christmas trees, presents, and tinsel, the fact that it's Christmas seems incidental. What *Four Christmases* really seems to be about is divorce, trust issues, and the resulting strain in family relations.

The pretense behind the film is actually quite intriguing and, when high divorce rates are taken into consideration, extremely relevant for a lot of people. From the beginning, the film seems to be set up to deliver a lesson about families putting aside differences to spend time together for the holidays, or about how to truly know your lover, you have to know their family.

Although the film does scratch the surface of these issues, by the end, Brad and Kate don't learn either of those lessons. This, coupled with the fact that snow, Santa, and the Christmas Spirit are all notably absent makes *Four Christmases* worthy of a lump of coal in its stocking.

King of England is worth Czeching out

One man's climb up the social hierarchy is the focus of this European comedy

filmreview

I Served the King of England

Directed by Jiri Menzel
Starring Ivan Barnev, Oldrich Kaiser, and Julia Jentsch
18 November–1 December
Metro Cinema (9828-101A Ave)

AARON YEO
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Things like that only happen in movies." This line normally refers to bullet-dodging action heroes saving New York City from a nuclear bomb planted by ex-Soviet soldiers—or really, any plot that happens on an epic scale.

However, there are other stories that aren't as grand and awesome, yet still only happen on the big screen. Stories of people who have an extraordinary tale to tell, who have experienced unique events in their life, but who can eventually settle down and find peace with the world. That only happens in movies.

Directed by Jiri Menzel, *I Served the King of England* revolves around a man named Jan Dite, who has just finished his 15 year sentence in a Czechoslovakian prison. He starts his life fresh after finding a decrepit but nevertheless inhabitable cabin in the woods and meets a few other folk who are living contently in semi-seclusion. Flash back to the mid-1930s and we meet the young Dite, a charming fellow waiting tables and serving drinks in a small village tavern. Watching the rich businessmen who

frequent the pub, he soon builds his dreams and aspires to be a millionaire who can throw around money on whatever he desires. Slowly moving from inns and small hostels to exquisite and luxurious six-star hotels, Dite builds his wealth off of generous tips resulting from his hard work, steadily climbing the capitalist social ladder.

As Nazi Germany annexes the Sudetenland, gang fights and hate crimes take place on every corner. Our protagonist rescues a young German lass from Czech hooligans in one such incident, signaling the start of their lovable yet complicated relationship.

Along with a down-to-earth storyline and characters, the film is filled with whimsical and eccentric humour, often a byproduct of Dite's charming personality.

Both being physically short people, they find many other things they have in common. But as the film progresses, her devout Nazism and unending infatuation with the Führer disturbs the honest Dite.

I Served the King of England turns out to be a stereotypical foreign flick—an artistic tragicomedy with a twist of quirky idiosyncrasies set in a defining historical period of a European nation. A stunning story is created within an oft-overlooked country during the Second World

War. Czechoslovakia played a small role in determining the course of the war, but they were undoubtedly one of the most affected. Being in Czechoslovakia, Dite's relationship with a girl fresh out of the Hitler Youth forms the basis for many awkward but compelling scenes.

The influence Nazi Germany had on Czechoslovakia and the ubiquitous passive-aggression from both sides becomes very apparent and reveals a key part of Czech history. However, the Romeo and Juliet component of the story serves merely as a subplot to Dite's ambitious goals of wealth and success.

Along with a down-to-earth storyline and characters, the film is filled with lighthearted, eccentric humour, often a byproduct of Dite's charming personality. He's portrayed in an exciting yet eclectic manner, not unlike if Charlie Chaplin exhibited the whimsical, yet precisely controlled movements of a singing, dancing waiter. Combine that with a bit of witty dialogue and you have a movie that won't necessarily make you cry from laughter, but will definitely give you a smile that you can't wipe off.

At the same time, however, the film transpires to be rather epic, following Dite's grand life story from bar boy to millionaire, before finally ending with him as a humble old man appreciating life's necessities. That feeling of accomplishment and happiness outside of materialism is something we all hope for. Being able to sit down with only a few physical possessions while possessing hundred of stories of grandeur to tell can make a person truly happy, and this film beautifully manages to capture that.

THE GATEWAY

In the interest of fairness, the Lady Editor Tribunal has refrained from placing the latest moustache photos in this ad; at such a small size, the moustaches of some competitors may not be visible in print.

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Lamb of God preaches metal revelations

musicpreview

Lamb of God

With Metallica and The Sword
Sunday, 7 December at 7pm
Rexall Place (7424-118 Ave)
Sold Out

CHRIS HUYGEN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Mark Morton may be sharing a stage with the biggest metal act on the planet in mere weeks, but that doesn't entitle him to a day off—not even on his birthday.

Speaking on the phone before driving down to Williamsburg, Virginia, to spend his 36th birthday with his family, Morton and the rest of Lamb of God will likely have long-standing birthday wishes fulfilled when they open up for Metallica on a string of North American dates this December.

"We've been hoping we'd get the chance to work with them, and it's finally happening, so we're really excited about it," the group's guitarist says enthusiastically.

Coming off the success of 2006's Grammy-nominated *Sacrament*, an album that cracked the Billboard top ten and catapulted Lamb of God to new heights of popularity, the band finds themselves with the opportunity to expose their music to an even larger audience who may be unfamiliar with the ferocity of their stage show.

"That's one of the things that's intriguing me about this tour; that for the first time in quite a while, we will probably be playing in front of a

large number of people who haven't seen us."

Not one to be fazed by arenas or fussy fans only coming to see Metallica, Morton and company have become accustomed to playing pretty much everywhere and anywhere. But he admits that there's something special about pulling off solos and head banging in front of the larger gatherings.

"There's a high that comes with playing in front of 70 000 people that you can't get from anything else, and there's a certain energy that comes built in with that."

"Randy is pretty skilled with a bullwhip, so it's not uncommon to see him hanging out in a parking lot, cracking a whip."

MARK MORTON
GUITARIST, LAMB OF GOD

Originally named Burn the Priest, the five piece hails from Richmond, Virginia, and has become accustomed to playing for sizable crowds, taking part in popular packaged tours like Ozzfest and Gigantour.

As had happened to their counterparts Metallica in the early '90s, such popularity and success can isolate a group's core fanbase. While Lamb of God may no longer be the "back-pocket" band representing underground music, Morton explains that though the look may have changed, the premise remains the same.

"We went from being a Friday-

night hobby, to something we were pursuing on the weekends, taking weeks at a time when we could take [time] off from work, and finally into being a full-fledged career. Before, I was 'screw in a light bulb, plug in the amps, and that was the show,' and now it's grown into a complete touring package."

Now that their hobby has turned into a full-time job that puts food on the table, Morton notes that the band members have their own varied ways to spend their leisure time while on the road.

"Everyone has their own thing to try to play a lot of guitar on the road. Willie [Adler, guitarist] is into remote control cars, and Randy [Barnes, guitarist] is pretty skilled with a bullwhip. It's not uncommon to see him hanging out in a parking lot, cracking a whip."

With well over 2 million album sales under their belts, it's hard to believe when music was only a hobby seem a long ways off. In February, Lamb of God will release their sixth studio album, *Wasting Fists*, which Morton described as a "dynamic album featuring the fastest and slowest material recorded to date. But in the end, the band will be repaying Metallica for their influence on them by warming up the crowd." Morton insists that their high profile won't be getting their heads any time soon.

"It's not always some Hollywood, Guns N' Roses kind of trip. Sometimes for a few minutes at a time, it is. But when you're walking through Wal-Mart trying to buy cans of soup, it's not always glamorous."

albumreview

Bela Fleck and the Flecktones

jingle all the way
Rounder Records

IAN PHILLIPCHUK

Arts & Entertainment Writer

Bela Fleck & the Flecktones

Jingle All the Way



It's evident from the very first track of *Jingle All The Way* that this isn't your parents' Christmas Album. "Jingle Bells" is a pretty traditional track found on most Christmas records, but like the rest of the lineup, what was old is new again. Tuvan throat singing adds a dimension to this old classic that is impossible to define. The throat

singing shows up on the later tracks and is a unique touch that makes this a difficult album to put into words.

All the traditional Christmas hits are here, from "Silent Night" to "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Bela Fleck and his Flecktones suitably jazz up the old favourites with a mix of drums, bass guitar, and Fleck's signature banjo.

If you're familiar with the Flecktones, you know that you can expect some fantastic individual performances. In this album, they continue that trend with some inspiring solos and compositions. Victor Wooten and Jeff Coffin particularly give stand-out performances that turn timeless classics into works of art.

But it's not just what was old that's new again, Fleck adds in several songs from different sources, including "Lamb and Lucy," "The Hanukkah Waltz" as well as a personal favourite, "What Child Is This/Dyngyldai." Instead of cherry-picking the usual past Christmas tracks you always find in Christmas albums, Fleck has assembled an outstanding collection that is a tribute to the entirety of the holidays, not just the mainstream Christmas

Emotionally vacant *Transporter 3* still a rush

Filmreview

Transporter 3
Directed by Olivier Megaton
Starring Jason Statham, Francois
Land, Natalya Rudakova, and
Knepper
Playing

NYWKLL

the rushed trilogy and déjà vu are
the things that come to mind
when watching out of *Transporter 3*
a movie that played
environment card to appeal to
the events and was viewable
for its generic fight scenes and
attempts to emulate classic
love scenes? Well, technically,
the *Quantum of Solace* was an actual
movie, yet its flaws are repeated
in *Transporter 3* to an almost indis-
tinguishable degree.

Jason Statham reprises his role as
high-risk goods transporter Frank
Martin, who this time is out to pre-
vent the bad guys—some evil-doing
billionaires—that want to ship hazard-
ous waste into Ukraine. When they
discover a Ukrainian environmental
minister by kidnapping his daughter,
Frank is forced back into business after
his car smashes into his house. By the
time he's on the road, transporting his
package, a number of random extras
have already been killed off. And as far
as body counts go, *Transporter 3* does
not get off to a good start.

As in the previous *Transporter*
movies, Frank attempts to follow (and
ends up breaking) the rules of his

trade in order to efficiently finish his
job without excess personal involve-
ment. He appears to stay emotionally
detached from reality for the entire
film. But while this effect adds to the
adrenaline-rich scenes, softer scenes feel
hollow. During the awkward romance
that somehow develops throughout the
film, Frank lacks anything resembling
a feeling and would be just as adept
at conversing with a computer gener-
ated character for the entire movie as
with the drugged-up female he drives
around with

The action is
exceptionally crafted,
and even if it's not quite
believable, it's exciting
and original enough
to keep an action film
crowd thrilled.

This object of his affection—if you
can call what he emits "affection"—is
a Ukrainian girl named Valentina
(Natalya Rudakova), the daughter of
the minister who eventually develops
into a love interest. She demonstrates
how *Transporter 3* makes yet another
attempt to copy James Bond, yet this
female lead is annoying and lacks the
snappy one-liners that make cleverly
named Bond girls like Honey Ryder or
Mary Goodnight enjoyable to watch.

What is watchable and thoroughly
amusing are the well-performed and
artfully choreographed fight scenes.
Frank takes on gangs of thugs, dodges
bullets, and drives a car onto a moving
train, all while wearing a suit. In one



scene, he uses his dress clothes to
gain a martial arts advantage, while in
another, he bicycles at Olympic speeds
through a building to catch up to a
speeding car. The action is exception-
ally crafted, and even if it's not quite
believable, it's exciting and original
enough to keep an action film crowd
thrilled.

But while *Transporter 3* could have
went all out and given the audience
exactly what they wanted by concen-
trating solely on chase sequences and
skirmishes, it dilutes the excitement
by combining action with an unlikely
and ill-crafted plot, cumbersome
dialogue, and oddly contrived love
scenes. The movie leaves its audience
at the credits wondering what just
flashed across the screen—were those

just loosely strung-together fights and
car chases, or was there something
that actually tied it together?

Transporter 3 finds much in
common with *Quantum of Solace*—
such as its use of the environment
as a backdrop to propel the plot, the
poor character development, the
under-emphasized action that almost
redeems the film, and the awkwardly
constructed "love."

But if you've already seen Bond's
latest adventure, avoid catching
Transporter 3 in theatre. Instead, rent
it or watch the action on YouTube so
that you can skip the contrived bits
that linger in between the only rea-
sons to actually watch this movie—
Jason Statham's classy fight sequences
and the high-speed pursuits.

cjsr albumcharts

FOR THE WEEK ENDING
TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER

1. MANRAYGUN
Misfortune Telling
(Independent)
2. JAY CROCKER
Below The Ocean Over
(Artunit)
3. LIONESS
Lioness
(New Romantic)
4. MOTHER MOTHER
O My Heart
(Last Gang)
5. MICHAEL RAULT
Crash! Bang! Boom!
(Chickadee)
6. THE WICKED AWESOMES
Information Entropy
(Almost Ready)
7. CHANDRA
Transportation
(Cantor)
8. THE BUTTLESS CHAPS
Cartography
(Mint)
9. PANTS AND TIE
*Washing Machine/You Rub Me
The Wrong Way*
(Independent)
10. STARS
Sad Robot
(Arts & Crafts)

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GRANDMA CHIC

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There are many reasons why people turn to the act of making things themselves instead of heading out to Wal-Mart. Some crave that completely personal, anti-corporate punk ideal, while others may enjoy the creative freedom or old-fashioned principles of making things by hand. Much of the fun of crafts is the simple act of doing it yourself. The pride and accomplishment you'll feel will easily match the

giddy, overjoyed feelings you had as a youngster when your mother pinned your macaroni art to the fridge. Because of all those feel-good endorphins, it's natural to want more, and since crafting isn't officially a drug, there's no worry of being charged with possession. Similarly, your friends aren't likely to stage an intervention.

DIY sensibilities are easily worked into your day-to-day life. It's as simple

as throwing out your frozen TV dinners and insisting on cooking your own meals with a measure of artistry and homeyness. It won't always be perfect, but the DIY spirit insists that you try, try again until you've mastered even the most persnickety macaroni recipe. No money for a haircut? Grab the kitchen scissors and give your locks the snip yourself—though, you should probably ask a friend to help

out with the back. But if you're tired of screwing up, reassurance is far away. There's a plethora of like-minded DIY types online, including a full-gallery thread of Craftster patrons who have cut and dyed their hair themselves with little to no blood shed. A DIY lifestyle is easy enough to adopt. All you need is the will to begin, some imagination, patience, and perseverance.

Knitting

This is the poster-child of the crafting revolution. Thanks to Debbie Stroller and her immensely popular *Stitch 'n' Bitch* book series, there's no trendier grandma-craft than knitting. Patterns for cute berets and scarves are like catnip for indie fashionistas in winter climates like ours, and for hipsters in tropical regions, ones for bikinis and miniskirts aren't hard to come by.

Knitting is a popular craft choice for many reasons—the availability of patterns being one of them. Chances are, if you can dream it, you can bet there's a pattern out there for it, be it in a book or provided for free on the Internet. It's also a great, inexpensive way to provide gifts for anyone in your life. You can't go wrong with a scarf, and they're easy enough to churn out once you've had some practice.

If you're a wannabe crafter with a busy lifestyle, knitting is the perfect choice for you. You can easily carry

around everything you need, making it the perfect way to fill those pockets of time spent on buses or in waiting rooms. Additionally, with enough practice, knitting can even be done blind, so while your hands do the dirty work, you sit on the couch with your eyes glued to the latest episode of *House*.

Getting Started

Materials:

- yarn
- two knitting needles
- stitch counters (optional)

Recommended Reads:

- *Stitch 'n' Bitch: The Knitter's Handbook* by Debbie Stroller
- *One-Skein Wonders* by Judith Durant
- *Knitting With Balls: A Hands-On Guide to Knitting for the Modern Man* by Michael Del Vecchio

Cost Range:

\$10–40 per project



Crochet

Crocheting is essentially knitting's little princess of a sister. Doilies and Lace are her areas of expertise, but secretly, she's good for more. Crocheting isn't quite as versatile as big sister knitting, but while she can't make a sweater to save her life, she's still great for scarves and hats.

Crocheting is easier to pick up for a first-time crafter than knitting is, since it's much easier to go back and fix mistakes. However, take heed: if you want both under your belt, you're better off starting with knitting. It's easy to go from knitting to crochet but not so easy to take the opposite route.

Unlike knitting, you need to pay attention and watch what you're doing when crocheting, so it's harder to sit in front of the TV with a hook and some yarn. But as a plus, dull, rounded crochet hooks, unlike knitting needles, are airplane

safe, allowing you to take your crafting international. And if that's not enough, the latest hipster craft trend—Amigurumi—are adorable crocheted toys and dolls with a Japanese influence.

Getting Started

Materials:

- yarn
- two knitting needles
- stitch counters (optional)

Recommended Reads:

- *Teach Yourself Visually Crocheting* by Kim P Werker and Cecily Keim
- *Not Your Mama's Crochet: The Cool Creative Way to Join the Craft Gang* by Amy Swenson
- *Creepy Cute Crochet: Zombies, Ninjas, Robots, and More!* by Christen Haden

Cost Range:

\$10–40 per project

Sewing

The perfect choice for the fashion-centric or just those who want to be able to mend their jeans. Sewing is pretty easy to pick up but time-consuming if you don't have a machine. Sewing machines are pricey, however, so if you're just starting, it's probably best to borrow your mom's for a few projects before shelling out the bucks.

While making your own clothes is an easy way to show off your handy work, be sure to take your time—you don't want to wear your mistakes quite literally on your sleeve. Fabric can also be expensive, so don't practice with good material. Instead, head to a thrift shop in search of garments to modify, or interesting bedding that can be

turned into other things.

If sewing clothes doesn't strike your fancy, there are a lot of other things you can cook up with a needle and thread. Table runners or place mats are a fabulous gift for moms and grandmothers, and stuffed toys can range from cute to crazy. Patterns for just about anything are likewise easy to find for free online and inspiration is everywhere.

Getting Started

Materials:

- needles
- thread
- fabric
- pins
- scissors

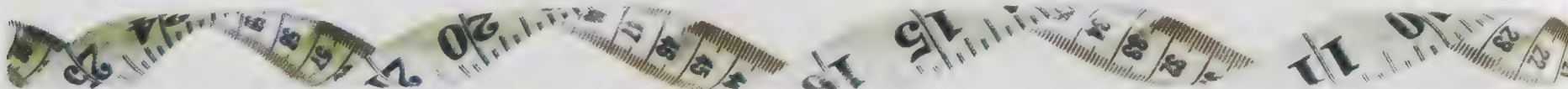
- sewing machine (optional)
- chalk, pattern, stuffing, buttons
- measuring tape (optional, depending on the project)

Recommended Reads:

- *Sew Everything Workshop* by Dana Rupp
- *Subversive Seamster: Transform Thrift Store Threads into Street Couture* by Melissa Rannels, Melissa Alvarado and Hope Meng
- *Amy Butler's In Stitches: More Than 25 Simple and Stylish Sewing Projects* by Amy Butler and Colin McGuire

Cost Range:

\$15–70 (note: this estimation definitely does not include the price of a sewing machine)



Embroidery

Thanks to embroidery fanatics like Julie Jackson and Jenny Hart, threads, needles, and cross-stitch patterns are no longer just for sad cat ladies. Companies like Sublime Stitching and Subversive Cross-stitch make a wide range of patterns—it's never been easier to embellish your towels, pillows, and clothing with curse words and sexy librarian pin-ups. And even if you can't find one you like, making your own patterns is as simple as putting a pencil to your fabric or sticking some text in a cross-stitch phrase generator.

Happily, needlework is the most travel-ready of any craft, provided you're embroidering a pillow and not a slip cover for a sofa that fits three. Threads, needles, and a tiny pair of scissors are easily tossed in a little bag and are light and easy to carry around. It's one of the most inexpensive crafts out there and is very simple to learn. Beware of eye-strain though. Needlework means

you spend a lot of time looking at little things—especially if you're trying out Pettipoint. Be sure to take breaks and let your eyes wander.

Getting Started

Materials:

- needles
- embroidery floss/thread
- fabric
- embroidery hoop
- scissors
- seed beads (optional)
- cross-stitch fabric (optional)

Recommended Reads:

- *Mary Thomas's Dictionary of Embroidery Stitches* by Mary Thomas and Jan Eaton
- *Doodle Stitching: Fresh & Fun Embroidery for Beginners* by Aimee Ray
- *Sublime Stitching: Hundreds of Hip Embroidery Patterns and How-To* by Jenny Hart and Alexandra Grablewski

Cost Range:

\$10–30 per project



Getting Started

Materials:

- nice paper
- craft glue or double sided tape
- calligraphy (or good quality) pens
- embellishments
- scissors
- photos, movie tickets, or anything else you care to showcase

Recommended Reads:

- *Collage Discovery Workshop* by Claudine Hellmuth
- *Encyclopedia Of Scrapbooking* by Tracy White
- *The Complete Guide to Altered Imagery: Mixed-Media Techniques for Collage, Altered Books, Artist Journals, and More* by Karen Michel

Cost Range:

\$5–35 per page



The world of crafting is a tight-knit community both for in-person crafting groups, craft fairs, and online communities. It can be a great way to meet new people and bond with friends. Try reading announcements in newspapers or searching the Internet to find out about craft related groups in your area. Web sites like craftster.org

Jewellery and Trinkets

If you're a lover of things that glitter and have so many accessories that your jewellery stand is ready to collapse, jewellery work will probably be the craft of choice for you. It will give you a personal flair and friends are usually delighted to get home-made jewellery. Also, there are many different branches of crafting within the ranks of jewellery, so there's plenty of room to experiment with new things such as beading, pouring resin moulds, and wire wrapping.

The best advice for venturing into this branch of crafting is to always have a plan. Bead stores and the jewellery aisles in Michaels can be very dangerous places. Filled to the rafters with trays and packages full of shiny objects, if you don't know exactly what you need for your project, it's easy to fill your basket with pretty things that you'll "eventually" use.

Beads and other jewellery supplies can add up very quickly, so be sure to compare prices and look for sales. Also, making trinkets from found items or taking apart second-hand jewellery for its parts can really help with the costs.

Getting Started

Materials:

- jewellery chain and wire
- lobster clasps
- beads
- needle-nose pliers
- wire cutters

(Note: these are only possible materials; it entirely depends on what you're planning to make.)

Recommended Reads:

- *Pretty Little Things: Collage Jewelry, Trinkets and Keepsakes* by Sally Jean Alexander
- *Bead on a Wire: Making Handcrafted Wire and Beaded Jewelry* by Sharilyn Miller
- *The Art of Jewelry: Plastic & Resin: Techniques, Projects, Inspiration* by Debra Adelson

Cost Range:

\$20–60 per project



Other

You'll find that once you dip your toe into the world of crafting that it's easy to get hooked. But while some people fall in love with needlepoint and never stray, others treat crafting like a buffet, sampling every dish and taking on more than they can handle. Once you start crafting, you'll easily find that there are lots of other options out there for you.

Jewellery turns to pottery or soldering picture frames, coasters, and other trinkets. Baking leads to cooking up your own bath bombs and shampoo. Knitting and crocheting lead deeper into textile work and the next thing you know, you're spinning your own yarn and printing custom patterns

on your fabric. The possibilities are endless and inspiration is lurking under every rock you find at the beach or un-clicked link on an Internet crafting forum.

Also, be sure to talk to the people around you about your new interest. Opening up the discussion can clue you into a lot of great opportunities. Maybe your 91-year-old neighbour knows how to weave her own lace and is willing to teach you, or the guy beside you on the bus knows a great website for learning to silk-screen print. If you're shy, the Internet is one of your most powerful tools—ask and you shall receive instructions on making your own glass lampworked beads.

Grandma's Knitting Circle It's Not

nature, and flipping through these photos is always an inspiration. Craftster also has challenges—often goofy dares issued to the general populous—which are great prompts for when you're feeling stuck. With results both ridiculous and fantastic, you'll have a hard time deciding who to vote for when it comes time to crown the champion.

Finally, if you're in a giving mood or just love the romantic whimsy of the postal service, craft swaps are also frequently organized. So scroll through the options, pick a theme you like (zombies, bees, and underwear were all recent swap themes), and sign yourself up. Soon enough, you'll be told who you're sending trinkets to and who's returning the favour.

Granny's gotta get paid

As soon as your friends realize your new-found handiness, you can bet that at least one will immediately request that you make them something. When crafting is new and exciting, it's hard to say "no," as your enthusiasm far outweighs your good sense. This is a trap you must avoid falling into, because once you agree to make one friend something, the others are bound to start lining up for handouts (provided

your work's actually good). Friends often don't clue in to the fact that that materials can be expensive and it sometimes doesn't occur to them that your hard work shouldn't be taken for granted. I recommend hinting that it could be a birthday present or, if they're really stuck on the idea, asking them to at least pay for materials is not unreasonable. Stick to your guns and don't let anyone demand free scarves.

and ravelry.com have huge communities, so it's easy to find people both in and out of your area as well as plenty of voices that are more than happy to help you learn a new skill or fix a catastrophic mistake. Many crafters let their work supplement their income at the beginning, and some eventually find it's a full-fledged business—you'd be surprised

what your handmade labours of love can go for in an online auction. Sites like Etsy.com or Artfire.com are ideal for setting up shop and enticing digital passers-by to shell out money for your wares. But whether you choose to make crafting a career or a hobby, your finished products will make you smile either way.





FILE PHOTO: BRENNAN MURPHY

BRING IN THE LOVE Panda Katie Barrett (5) reaches out to try and bring the ball back into the paint.



FILE PHOTO: BRENNAN MURPHY

PUSH OUT THE JIVE Golden Bear Scott Leigh (13) drives the ball around Huskie Showron G...

U of A hoops close out first half this weekend

Wins over Wesmen, Bisons could put Pandas back atop division

NICK FROST
Sports Editor

After an impressive weekend in southern Alberta that saw their offence finally click for the first time this year, the Pandas basketball team returns home looking to ride out that scoring momentum against the Winnipeg Wesmen (6-2) and Manitoba Bisons (5-3) this weekend.

Head coach Scott Edwards spoke about how the team had finally decided to change up their offensive strategy, which has already seemed to pay dividends. The focus, according to the Pandas bench boss, shifted from simply trying to ease the frustrations of his shooters and put them back into a position where it's easier to focus on getting proper shots set up—instead, through the greater emphasis that's being placed on defence (which has been a strong point for Alberta at times this year), Edwards hopes that more scoring opportunities can be created off of turnovers and toughness.

"I think they showed a lot of character this week in practice and we actually focused a lot on defence this week to make us tougher offensively. We felt that might help better instead of putting on them about trying to score, which we've been doing over the past couple of weeks, so we've kind of changed our focus in practice," Edwards said. "But we came out with a better mindset, got easier looks in transition, and it just got them feeling comfortable about the game."

This weekend's matchup will be the last conference games for the Pandas until the beginning of next semester at the start of January. However, the team won't just remain dormant over the next 30 days, as they will continue with a consistent training regimen in time to be able to play in an exhibition tournament at the end of the December.

"First off are exams—so the girls won't be working on a whole lot then. But we'll practice again next week for a couple of days and

it'll mostly be about fitness over the Christmas break," Edwards explained. "Mostly, they'll be working on their own—we've got lots of kids from out of town that have to get into their own high school gyms and stay fit and just continue to work on their game individually—we don't have a lot of actual practice over the holidays."

"I've been really happy with how we've defended and how each of the kids are playing individually for the most part. They're doing a good job and I just hope that, over the holidays, they find their consistent touch and confidence in their shots so they can knock them down and make us a true national championship threat in the second term."

The Winnipeg Wesmen come into this weekend's doubleheader well rested, having had a bye the past Friday and Saturday nights. Despite their record, Winnipeg's offence has looked lacklustre all season, averaging 61.9 points per game, good enough for ninth in Canada West. Defence has been a strong point for the Wesmen, though, and the Pandas will have to keep their eyes on Alexandria Maciver, who will be a key player in the post for the Wesmen.

"Winnipeg has a good starting lineup and they play a little differently than most teams in our conference. They play zone and they'll be a pretty up-tempo team—it'll be different for us to play against a team that zones a lot. They also have a 6'5" forward [Maciver] and we've never really played a kid that big—she'll definitely be a shot-blocker, so that'll be unique for them as well."

The Bisons, on the other hand, have won three of their last four and will likely match Alberta with a similarly physical style of play.

"Manitoba's more like us—a little smaller, but they're scrappy, and they press full-court and go deep like we do. So, it'll be a more up-and-down game than it will be in the Winnipeg game."

Tip-off for both games are at 6pm on Friday and Saturday nights at the Main Gym.

Bears looking to even their record against Manitoba opponents

NICK FROST
Sports Editor

Before the Golden Bears basketball team (3-5) head into the Christmas break, they'll have an opportunity to bring themselves back to the .500 mark as they welcome the Winnipeg Wesmen (2-6) and the Manitoba Bisons (3-5) to the Main Gym this weekend.

Alberta's current win-loss record can be partially attributed to the fact that they've split their last three weekend series. While the Bears have kept in close in most losing scenarios, they have still had some difficulty thrusting themselves into the lead by the final buzzer. However, head coach Don Horwood is still satisfied with the direction his team is headed and is confident that those wins will start coming eventually.

"I'm really, really pleased with the progress we're making. And even though, yeah, we have split the last three weekends, we're definitely on the upswing from where we were, say, a month or six weeks ago. So, in my mind, things have been quite positive; I know on paper, though, that it looks like just a split," Horwood explains.

"But we had a very good opportunity and probably should've won the second game against Lethbridge on Saturday night—it was tied with a minute and a half to go and we missed too many free-throws and way too many lay-ups. But overall, for me, I saw a big upswing in our effort level and execution level, so I'm optimistic that we're moving in the right direction and that's what we have to be focusing on right now."

After this weekend, Alberta will head into the break with just over a month off. While the players will tackle exams and visit their families during this time, the basketball side will be comprised mostly of training and preparing for the Wesmen Classic taking place in late December, followed by the second half of conference action.

"We'll basically just be trying to fine tune

everything and keep our guys in condition as exams are on. Then, at the end of exams, we'll have a couple of practices before they go home for Christmas, and next week, we'll have some practices," Horwood said. "We'll also be spreading things around—we're going to Ross Sheppard, we're going to Commonwealth Stadium, we're going to Leduc High School because we can't have a gym here at our own place."

One piece of the Bears lineup that could be back soon is guard Tamer Douglas, who has been out spent most of the season on the sidelines nursing an injury.

"We're hoping that Tamer will be able to come back and start practicing, in which case, we'll be able to teach him the offence because he's been out so long," Horwood said. "I don't know if he'll get a chance to get back in or not, but if it does happen, we'll use those practices times to try and get him re-familiarized with everything."

Coming into this weekend, both the Wesmen and the Bisons haven't exactly had the best statistical years, but both teams have at least one potentially dangerous player that can lead their respective teams—both of which Alberta will have their eyes on.

"I think they've split the two games that they've played, so they're very similar," Horwood said. "Winnipeg's got the third-leading scorer in Canada West Nick Lothar, and he's a guard, so we're going to have to try and control him to a certain extent. Manitoba has Nathan Lethbridge as well, who I believe is also in the top-10 in scoring in Canada West. Both those guards are similar in style; they like to beat you off the dribble. So, we're working this weekend on being able to cut down their ability to score. By the same token, we have to limit the ability of their teammates to score."

Alberta hits the Main Gym court against Winnipeg on Friday night, and again on Saturday against Manitoba, both starting at 8pm.



FILE PHOTO: LAUREN STIEGLITZ

CONTINUAL PROGRESS U of A wrestling hopes to uphold their success and to be pushed the extra mile with a new coach.

Former Olympian Sissaouri named wrestling head coach

When the U of A wrestling team hit the mat in January for their first matches of the season, there will be a new face at the helm. Former team member and silver medalist from the 1996 Atlanta Olympics Gia Sissaouri will step in as the new head coach of the program, taking over from longtime leader Vang Ioannides, who carried the team for nearly 20 years.

During a coaching stint with the Canadian national team in mid-August at the World Championships in Turkey, Ioannides received a call from U of A Athletic Director Dale Schulha notifying him that he had been chosen as an Assistant Athletic Director. Almost immediately, the school named former standout Jarrett Wall as an interim coach—however, moving forward with the knowledge that Wall will be leaving for New Zealand in January, the program was in need of someone who could fill the shoes on a more permanent basis.

Basically, [Dale Schulha] was looking for another Athletic Director and I thought that that might be something I'd be interested in when I'm too old and decrepit to roll around on a wrestling mat, which probably isn't all that far away for me," Ioannides laughed.

So, it was a good fit for me, but the main thing was that I had Dale's commitment that we would get the best possible coach available to us in order to advance the wrestling program."

After Sissaouri: after looking at a number of interested candidates—a process that Ioannides says he was involved in much a part of—the Athletics

department brought in the former Olympian hoping that he would be able to leave his mark on a team with a bright immediate future.

"I had identified several key individuals that we wanted to target, and they included one of our Olympic team coaches and an assistant Olympic team coach that I had hoped would be looking for something to do once the Olympics were done," Ioannides explained. "We also targeted some of the people that we thought were good assistant coaches elsewhere who were perhaps looking for head coaching jobs, like Gia, who we ended up hiring in the end."

"He's definitely going to draw people to the university—we've already had a huge interest in the program just since the announcement last week."

VANG IOANNIDES
U OF A ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

"The strategy was mine in terms of who we went after, and how we advertised, and where we did so. In reality, Gia is the only person we ended up interviewing for the position in the end because he was the strongest of the people who did allow their names to stand and, certainly, we went after him pretty vigorously."

Ioannides was also quick to praise Sissaouri's abilities as a coach, having served as an assistant for the Montreal

Wrestling Club, as well as having run clinics and taught young athletes in Canada for the past 15 years.

"He's a 100 per cent quality individual in terms of everything that he does. He's a very personable guy—I don't know anyone who can say a negative thing about him—and that's not easy for a wrestler because we tend to piss people off a lot more often than we should," Ioannides joked.

"Gia would probably be considered Canada's best technical competitor ever; so what he brings to the table is a way of doing things that is unique. He brings a different training regimen and has been doing clinics and teaching young athletes in Canada for the last 15 years, so he's very good analytically and technically."

A native of Tbilisi, Georgia, Sissaouri wrestled for the Soviet Union for a number of years before coming to Canada in 1991 after the breakup of the USSR. In his time as a Canadian team member, the U of A's new wrestling coach—who will officially step into the position on 1 January—has accumulated a World Championship win in 2001, along with a number of international silver and bronze medals, and six number-one world rankings in the 60kg weight-class. Ioannides believes that Sissaouri's credentials will speak for themselves, especially when it comes time to recruit young athletes to the program.

"He's definitely going to draw people to the university—we've already had a huge interest in the program just since the announcement last week," Ioannides said. "So, we think that he's going to draw from across Canada and even some of my international contacts are more interested in coming to train now."

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All we want for Christmas is their two front teeth

The youngsters of Gateway Sports have made many an odd request: now it's on Santa Claus to make these sports wishes come true



SPORTS
STAFF

Though it doesn't seem like we've been bombarded with Christmas carols and decorations galore like we normally are around this time each year—nor have we had the chance to enjoy the wonders of scraping ten inches of snow off the car early in the morning—one look at a calendar reminds us all that Christmas is quickly approaching.

One of the things that I'm sure most of us did as children was write letters to Santa Claus asking for the gifts that would define our childhoods.

Of course, we're grown now and we all have different wants and needs. That doesn't mean, however, that those of us at Gateway Sports can't still clog up the old man's mailbox. Here are our letters to the Kris Kringle.

Matt Pretty

Dear Santa,
My wish list for Christmas isn't very long this year, but right at the top in bold print is the one thing I want more than any other as a sports fan: commentators for every game who actually have some idea of what the fuck they're talking about and will tell you what is happening in the game. Is it too much to ask for objective, clear, and knowledgeable on-air voice talent that will enable me to watch or listen to a game without cursing a blue streak at the incompetence of what I'm hearing?

For example, I can't even try to listen to Eskimos games on the radio anymore because the old, senile, walking advertisement named Bryan Hall won't shut up and retire. "Did you see that, folks?" No, Bryan, I didn't, because you're broadcasting over the damn radio. If I hear one more mention of Tony Roma's ribs in the middle of a punt, I'll explode out of sheer fury. And I can't even get away from him at home games because the Eskimos now have the crusty old toupee-with-a-mouth sing the fight song over the PA.

And Hallsy isn't the only one—Bob Cole (there are other teams besides the Leafs, you know), Roger Millions (you're not the Flames' buddy, so quit calling them by their first names), Glen Sutor (who consistently harps on one thing for an entire CFL game), and a host of other voices need to be replaced. If you were able to clone Chris Cuthbert and Dave Randorf, Santa, then that would be adequate for most events.

Oh, and while you're at it, might you be able to throw in a big HDTV and a subscription to Bell ExpressVu? I promise I've been good, and I'll even leave you cookies, provided I have notification of your favorite kind.

John Keohane

Dear Santa,
You and I have had some issues in the past (N64gate, circa 1998, is still a raw memory), but I really think it's time we make amends. It's a recession, dammit, and you need to bring joy to every hopeful soul and every quivering dreamer you possibly can. As such, I have concocted a list of very feasible Christmas wishes, which I really hope you can satisfy.

First, could you abduct, seize, or otherwise remove Danny Maciocia from his current position in the Eskimos organization? I know, I know, I'm greedy. Somehow last place in the West, followed by a meagre victory over an awful Blue Bombers team, doesn't allay my doubts. Humour me.

Secondly, I'd like the Sedin twins to be renamed Sven One and Sven Two, and mandate that they retire from the NHL effective immediately so that they can start a Euro trance trio with Tommy Salo playing synth keyboards. They shall be known as *Mediation*. Tommy's in a bad space right now—he needs this.

Third, I want some sort of sex tape or drug orgy scenario involving a female athlete(s), preferably of the Sharapova-esque disposition. Trust me, this will help women's professional sports immensely. Scandal begets attention, which leads to TV coverage, which generates advertising dollars, which contributes to a healthier, more vibrant competitive atmosphere.

Oh, and one last thing, if it's not too much trouble: could you send my good friend Dustin Penner a Thigh-Blaster 350X? Yikes.

If you can indulge these desires, Nicky, you will have made me a very happy young boy on Christmas morning. And, really, isn't self-gratification what the Advent season is all about?

Evan Daum

Dear Santa,
You really have been slacking when it comes to college football, so all I'm asking for this Christmas is a decent

playoff format. When you sift around on your jolly way, giving gifts to girls and boys, die-hard college football fans around the globe shake their heads and wonder how a wonderful fellow like yourself could neglect their world. Is it that big of a hassle to set up an eight-team playoff, and get rid of the heap of garbage that is the Bowl Championship Series?

You have a lot of swing, so I ask you: why don't you use your power to make a bunch of big kids happy by granting us the chance to finally find out who really is the best college football ball team south of the 49th parallel? There's one simple reason, Santa, and I know this will outrage all the Marxist-Leninists out there: you're accepting bribes from all those capitalist big-wigs who are padding their wallets with the Bowl games.

I like you as much as the next guy—who doesn't love a guy who gives as much free stuff away as he possibly can? It's time, though, for you to grant my sports wish and stop being bribed by the capitalist goons who run the BCS, and finally deliver college football fans a real national champion. Santa, just give us a playoff.

Nick Frost

Dear Santa,
How are things up at the North Pole? Things must be really bustling for the elves this time of year.

Anyhoo, we all know that you've had a close relationship with the sports community over the years—after all, it was you who left NFL Quarterback Club for the Sega Game Gear underneath my tree in 1995. And I believe in my heart of hearts that you're not actually Bill Belichick underneath

your red suit like Sports Illustrated insinuated last year.

As you know, I've been a very well behaved sports editor this year and I think it would be totally awesome if you could deliver these three gifts this Christmas morning.

First, I'd like a shiny, red firetruck hit Pierre Maguire while he's crossing the street. Not to kill him, mind you, but to do damage to his vocal chords so that he can no longer obnoxiously yell out the phrases "I'm a star!" "double Dion."

Then, I want a brand new Nerf gun that I can use to beat some sense, consistency, or something into this year's Edmonton Oilers. With a lineup seemingly balanced as the one we have—regardless of injuries and that other bliz-blaz—there's no way they shouldn't be putting up a fight for the Northwest division lead. Perhaps I'll hit Erik Cole the hardest for his prototypical known-goal scorer who just can't do it for the Oilers. Dustin Penner or Joffrey Lupul.

Finally, I'd love my very own hypno-coin, so that I can put my fellow office-mates into a trance during which they forget to see fantasy hockey rosters, allow me to become the undisputed champion of the Gateway's Hockey Pool. At least, have a better chance of winning. Because, at this point, that's about my only chance I stand of winning.

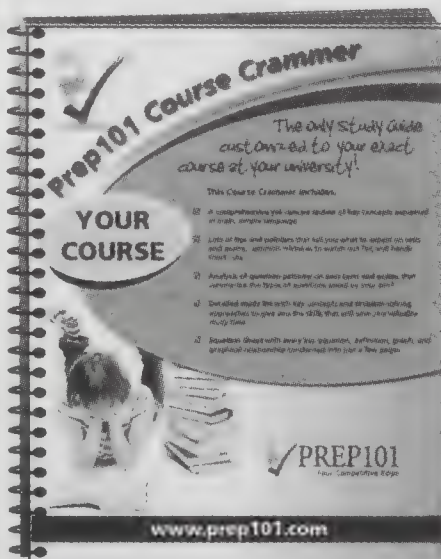
I look forward to leaving footprints on my roof a month from now and, also, I'll leave the cookies and milk closer to the tree this year because, if you don't have legions of elves by now, you'll still seem like you're on pace to be afflicted with the flu soon.

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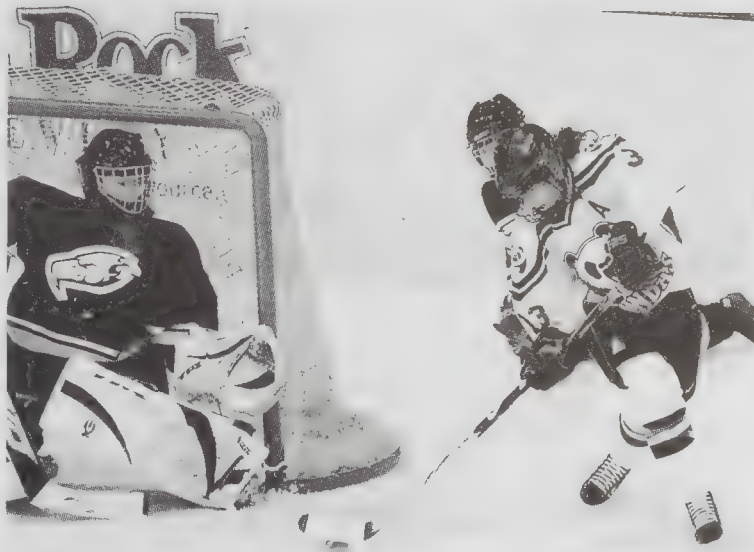
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Puck Pandas hoping to carry success into Christmas break



GIFT-WRAPPED Pandas forward Mia Mucci (13) attempts the wrap around.

with her an extremely young team with over half the roster having less than three years experience at the collegiate level, including six first-year players.

"They have a team very much like UBC—they have a younger team and I'm anticipating that if they do a good job of helping those players develop that they will be a solid program, if not later this year, then in the next couple of years," commented Draper.

"They have a lot of speed and skill, but what I think they lack is experience."

The two games against Lethbridge will be the last for Draper's squad before the new year and he realizes how important it would be for the team to go into the break by building on the solid play they have exhibited over the past few weekends.

"In the second game in Sask-

atchewan we played very well. I felt this past weekend against UBC, we took it a step further," explained Draper. "I think it would be a huge plus for our team if we were to finish off at a very high level against Lethbridge."

After Friday and Saturday night's games, the team will shift its attention from being athletes back to being students. The necessity of giving the players more time to focus on their studies is something Draper fully understands, given his experience as a student athlete while a member of the Bears.

"We're very conscious of the fact that they're all students and the focus has to switch to academics, so we don't overload them with a lot of training or anything else," said Draper.

Action gets underway at the Drake on Friday and Saturday night at 7pm.

SPORTS SHORTS

Compiled by Matt Pretty

Golden Bears Volleyball

Atop the CIS rankings for the sixth-straight week, the Volley-Bears (8-0) finish the term with a two-game series in Winnipeg against the Manitoba Bisons (3-5). Both teams sweat their home series last week—Alberta trounced the number-four Calgary Dinos in two 3-0 matches, while the Bisons had little trouble with the win-

The Bears have been laying a brick wall on top of the net—Alberta is far and away the best blocking team in the conference, led by third-year Spencer Leiske, who leads the conference in both blocks per game (1.46) and hitting percentage (.533).

Manitoba will have to vastly improve their below-average assist and kill numbers to break through the Bears' defence. Action starts at 6:30pm on Friday and Saturday, and an online webcast will be available at www.youronlinechannel.com/bisons

Pandas Volleyball

The Pandas volleyball team (9-1) also will travel to Winnipeg to face the Manitoba Bisons (7-3) in two matches this weekend for their last action before Christmas.

This matchup should make for an interesting competition, as Alberta and Manitoba are currently in a fierce battle for tops in Canada West, while also being ranked first and fifth respectively in CIS. Like their male counterparts, the lady Bisons swept Saskatchewan last weekend, while the Pandas beat Calgary 3-0 before suffering a narrow 3-2 loss.

There will be individual matchups aplenty to watch this week—The Bisons' Sarah Morrisette and the Pandas' locelyn Blair are first and

second in the conference in points scored, while Alberta setter Darryl Roper and Manitoba setter Sam Loewen are both averaging over ten assists per game. First serve will be at 5pm on Friday and Saturday, with a video webcast at www.youronlinechannel.com/bisons

Golden Bears Hockey

After enjoying a bye last weekend, the puck Bears (9-2-1) head back out on the road once again to close out their semester. They'll visit the UBC Thunderbirds (5-8-1) this weekend for the second time in a month and a half, but this week Alberta will play two games under the bright lights of UBC's brand-spanking-new Olympic rink.

Despite a horrible first-half schedule, during which they played nine of fourteen games away from Clare Drake Arena, Alberta is still ranked number one in CIS, and will attempt to replicate October's road sweep at UBC by scores of 4-0 and 5-2.

Due to injury, Bears goalie Aaron Sorochan missed the first series at UBC, but he'll get his first crack at the T-Birds this weekend and will look to improve on his conference-leading 956 save percentage and 1.09 goals-against average.

The puck drops at 8:30pm on Friday and Saturday nights, and links to a webcast can be found at www.citr.ca

Fantasy Hockey

In the continuous race between everyone to keep Paul Owen out of top spot, Pete Yee seems to be struggling a little bit as he sits in a 5-5 deadlock after Tuesday night. Perhaps the luck of Mr Yee's shitty roster has, in fact, run out.

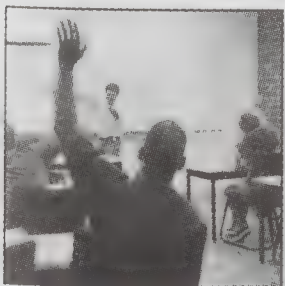
A "Short" Salutation

For the last underwear check of the year, I must pull a double shout-out. Jonn Kmech is feeling patriotic today as indicated by his Canadian flag boxers. Meanwhile, Kelsev Tanasiuk's undies feature bunnies pulling squirrels in wagons, accented by polka dots. Yeah Merry Christmas, mofos!

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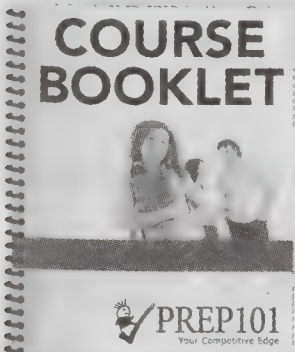
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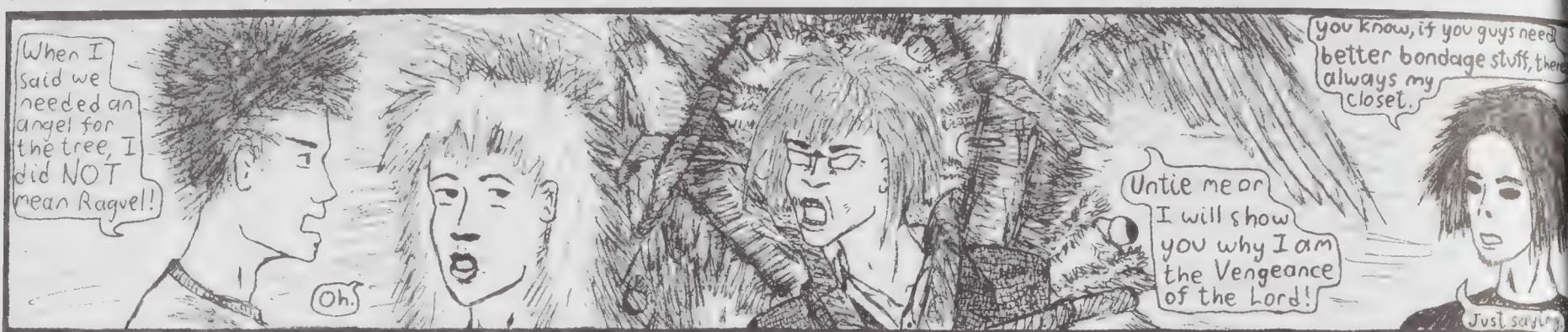
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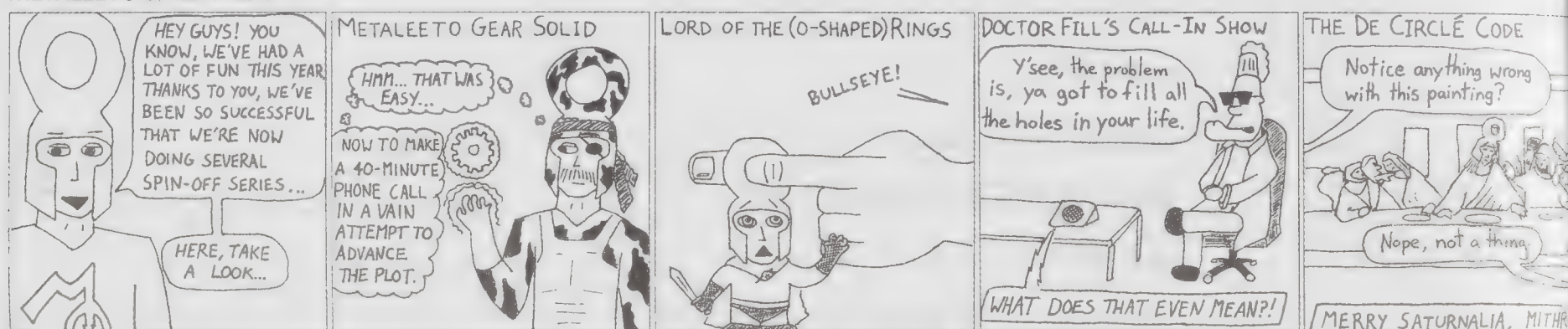
ID & EGO by Lauren Alston



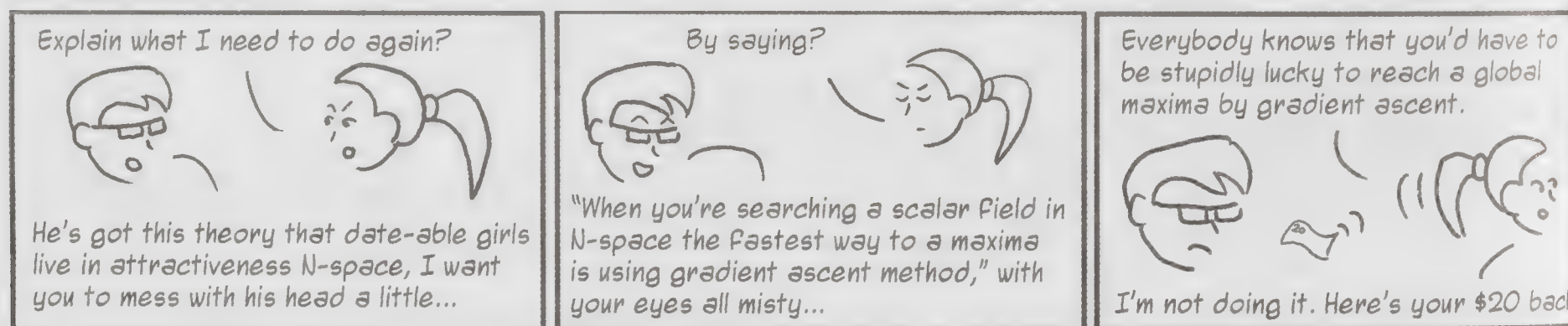
THE RESTLESS WICKED by Marie Gojmerac



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FOR RENT

Looking for a place to live? Check out www.rentingspaces.ca, the student housing registry. Free to search and free for students to post roommate listings!

Waikiki hawaii 1 bdrm condo - weekly rental; sun-sunday Dec. 28 or Feb 15 sleeps 6, 2 bthrms \$1100/wk

3 bedroom main floor of house for rent. Large yard, heated garage, 1.5 baths, pet allowed. \$1300+util. 708-6631 Avail. Dec.1

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Do you have mono? Would you like to try acupuncture for your symptoms for free? If you are between 15 and 25 please contact Denise at 780-232-7040 or care@med.ualberta.ca

Cameron Library Craft Sale November 27 &

28, 2008 9:30am - 3pm Rm 3-03 Cameron Library. Free Admission/Door Prizes.

EMPLOYMENT — FULL TIME

Are you looking for a career in music? Visionary College is looking for motivated guitar, piano and violin instructors to join their St. Albert location staff. We offer competitive wages and also comprehensive health and dental benefits in full time positions. Full-time or part-time we look forward to receiving your application. Please forward resumes by fax to (780)460-4431 or email: stanl@visionarycollege.ab.ca or check out our website www.visionarycollege.ab.ca

EMPLOYMENT — PART TIME

Personal care aide required for male quadriplegic. Position 1 weekend live-in position, 2 weekends per month position 2 weekday live-in position, 2-3 days per week. For both positions: Semi-flexible hours, plenty of time off during the day. No experience required, will train. Drivers licence required. Contact Mark @ mholitzki@shaw.ca to apply or for more information

Immediate position for part time work (mostly evenings and weekends). Duties include stripping and waxing floors, etc. Carpet cleaning experience a definite asset. Excellent wages starting at \$14.00/hr. Can be full time summer job. Fax resumes to 780-469-4897 or email to: blaine245@hotmail.com

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5	3		8	6	

astronowatch

by Kati Kovacs

Oh my loyal fans, I'm sorry for having been AWOL for the past few weeks. This November has been the crappiest in a few years. Anyone else hate this month? At least I don't have to wear my snow boots to play discgolf, but that's the only silver lining I can find. Maybe December will turn my frown upside down. Maybe.

Unfortunately, in the few weeks I've been absent, there've been some amazing things happening in the astronomy world. The one I'm most excited about are the pictures that were released two weeks ago, taken by two independent teams of astronomers. These images show planets orbiting around two different stars. That's right chumps, there is photographic evidence of other solar systems!

Both of these photographed solar systems contain planets many times the size of Jupiter, but that certainly doesn't mean there aren't cute little green and blue planets hiding closer to the stars. In the next few years as our detection equipment gets better, we may even have photos of those



Earth-sized planets.

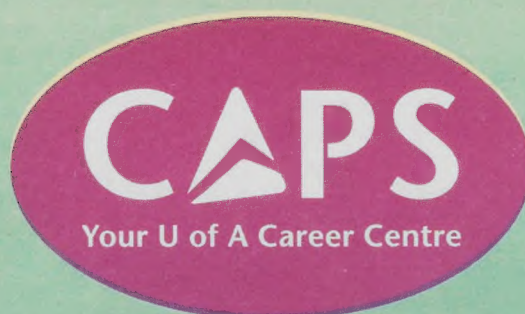
Also, how many of you saw the meteor last Thursday? I curse each and every one of you. The last I heard was that a possible impact site is Manitou Lake, SK. So Professor Herd, want to go on a road trip? You can bring your post-doc along if you want.

AstronoWatch is a weekly feature that covers the goings-on in the night skies, the galaxy, and sometimes even Kati's personal life. Keep up with Astronowatch online at thegatewayonline.ca/astronowatch or check out the FABservatory's site at www.phys.ualberta.ca/observatory



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The Gateway Fall 2008 Reader Survey:

Even better than compiling your holiday shopping list

It's your turn to let us know what you think about the Gateway. Is it a twice-weekly tradition or blasphemous birdcage liner? Left-wing propaganda or pinko-commie rag?

Complete this survey and hand it in at the Gateway office in 3-04 SUB, or at InfoLink Information Booths in SUB, CAB, HUB, or ETLC on Friday, 28 November, 2008 and you could win prizes!

How often do you read the Gateway?

Rarely ☐ Monthly
Weekly ☐ Twice weekly

How often do you read the Gateway Online?

Rarely ☐ Monthly
Weekly ☐ Twice weekly

How many Gateway publishes:

Too many issues ☐ Not enough issues ☐ Just enough issues

How big are Gateway's issues are:

Too big ☐ Too small ☐ Just right

How is Gateway's ad-to-content ratio is:

Too high (too many ads) ☐ Too low (could stand for more ads)
Just the right balance

If Gateway was your favourite, rank the sections of the Gateway from 1 - 6:

News ☐ Opinion
Sports ☐ Arts & Entertainment
Comics ☐ Features

On average, how long do you spend reading each section of the Gateway (in minutes)?

News ☐ Opinion
Sports ☐ Arts & Entertainment
Comics ☐ Features

What type of Gateway News articles do you read most?

Campus news ☐ Local news ☐ National news
Streeters ☐ Science and technology ☐ People profiles

What type of opinion articles do you read most?

Political commentary ☐ Humour/satire ☐ Student life
Weird/random musings ☐ Point-Counterpoint

What type of A&E articles do you read most?

Film ☐ Theatre ☐ Music ☐ Gaming
Visual arts ☐ Commentaries

What sports would you like to see receive more coverage?

Are you aware that University of Alberta students pay a \$3.09 per-term

student levy to help fund the Gateway?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you aware that the Gateway is autonomous from the SU and University?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you aware that any student can volunteer for the Gateway?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Where do you live?

☐ At home (with parents) ☐ On campus
☐ Off campus

How old are you? _____

Are you:

☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Other

What's your faculty/program?: _____

What year?: _____

E-mail: _____

This survey is completely anonymous, but prizes will be awarded to randomly drawn surveys, including a \$100 Bookstore certificate, magazine subscriptions to *The Walrus*, *Harper's*, and *Maclean's*; Gateway T-shirts, frisbees, and toques; and tons of swag from our A&E fun sack!

Take the survey online at
www.thegatewayonline.ca/survey

Rate the following from 1 to 5, where 1=wretched and 5=rad:

PRINT EDITION

How convenient do you find the Gateway's distribution points?

1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate this semester's News section?

1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate this semester's Opinion section?

1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate the editorial cartoons?

1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate this semester's Arts & Entertainment section?

1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate this semester's Sports section?

1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate this semester's features?

1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate this semester's comics?

1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate this semester's illustrations?

1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate the Gateway's photography?

1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate the Gateway's layout and design?

1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate the Gateway's coverage and representation of:

Women and women's issues

1 2 3 4 5

Visible minorities and minorities' issues

1 2 3 4 5

Undergraduate students and lifestyle

1 2 3 4 5

Local Issues and Edmonton lifestyles

1 2 3 4 5

SU policy and administration

1 2 3 4 5

University policy and administration

1 2 3 4 5

In general, how would you rate Gateway's relevance to students?

1 2 3 4 5

Overall, how would you rate Gateway this semester?

1 2 3 4 5

WEBSITE

How would you rate the Gateway Online's navigability and ease of use?

1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate the design?

1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate the timeliness of its content?

1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate the search and archiving functions?

1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate the blogs?

1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate the RSS feeds?

1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate the online archives?

1 2 3 4 5

Overall, how would you rate the the Gateway Online?

1 2 3 4 5

Bonus Lightning Round!

What about the paper makes you want to pick it up?

If you or someone you know has decided to stop reading the Gateway, what were the reasons?

What would you like to see more or less of in the Gateway?

What improvements would you like to see to the Gateway Online?

What should each section of the paper (News, A&E, Sports, Opinion, Comics, Features) do that it currently doesn't?

What was the best article, photo, and/or illustration in the Gateway this semester? Why?

What was the worst article, photo, and/or illustration in the Gateway this semester? Why?

What were the best/worst front covers in the Gateway this semester? Why?

Who are your favourite Gateway writers/photographers/artists? Why?

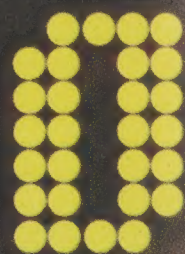
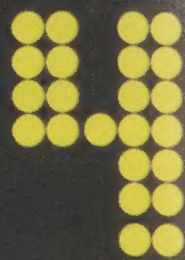
Have you ever thought about volunteering for the Gateway? Why or why not?

Do you prefer to read the Gateway in print or online?

If you're a returning student, do you think the Gateway has gotten better or worse since you first started reading it? Why?

Please add any additional comments here:

HUDSONS BOREDOM



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